

PLO Central Council to meet Aug. 3

DAMASCUS (R) — A special Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) council will meet in Tunis next week to discuss the mutiny against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat within his own Fatah faction, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said Friday. Wafa said a meeting of the Palestine Central Council including members of all PLO groups was set for Aug. 3 by Council Speaker Khaled Al Fahoum. Top of the agenda will be the violent 11-week-old rebellion of Fatah hardliners opposed to Mr. Arafat's leadership, and the council will discuss the work of a six-man mediation team appointed by the PLO's top Executive Committee to try to reconcile the two sides, Wafa said. Representatives of all eight PLO groups are included on the Central Council. It will be the first meeting of the council since it was re-elected earlier this year.



Israelis fired on in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Bursts of small arms fire and two bazooka rockets were directed Friday at Israeli positions from behind Syrian lines in the Lebanese Shouf mountains, an Israeli military spokesman outside Beirut said. On Thursday, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported three attacks by Lebanese leftist guerrillas against Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon. Wafa said the "Lebanese National Resistance" attacked an Israeli patrol with rocket-propelled grenades near Kfar Shima, seven kilometres from Beirut's city centre. Wafa said an explosion knocked out an Israeli vehicle and caused Israeli casualties on the Aaqbiye-Sarafand coastal road, between Tyre and Sidon. On the "Jasmiye" road near Tyre, an Israeli patrol was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, Wafa said.

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Klibi off to Greece

TUNIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi left here Friday for Athens for talks with Greek officials on the Middle East and the European-Arab dialogue. Mr. Klibi will meet Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, the current president of the European Economic Community's Council of Ministers. Friday night, the talks are expected to deal on the European Community's role in helping to find a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict and how to revive the Arab-European dialogue. Arab sources here said.

Begin's popularity falling, poll shows

TEL AVIV (R) — The popularity of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has dropped but support for the ruling Likud Party has risen during the past month, according to two public opinion polls published Friday. A survey in the mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper showed 40 per cent of those questioned believe that Mr. Begin is the person most suited to head the government, a drop of five per cent over last month. The poll was conducted between July 12 and 21, the week Mr. Begin caused concern about his health by postponing a trip to Washington, citing personal reasons.

David Niven dies

CHATEAUX, JOZEX, Switzerland (R) — British film actor David Niven died Friday in his Swiss home after a long illness his nephew, Michael Wragandah said. Mr. Niven died early Friday in his home in the mountains east of Lake Geneva, he was 73. The nephew, contacted by telephone at the Niven home, said he died peacefully and without pain shortly after 1700 local time (1500 GMT). Mr. Wragandah said: "His last gesture a few minutes before he died had been to give the thumbs up sign."

Bush fires ravage Sardinia

ROME (R) — Italian Civil Protection Minister Loris Fortuna Friday said he asked caretaker Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani to declare Sardinia a natural disaster area after six people were killed Thursday in raging bush fires. The minister said France was unable to meet an Italian request to supply "water bomber" aircraft to fight the Sardinian fires, as all of its aircraft were busy with fires in southern France and the nearby island of Corsica. Italy had asked for help from West Germany and other community countries.

Landslide buries bus tragedy rescuers

BOGOTA (R) — Rescuers trying to reach a bus that had toppled down precipice in Colombia's mountainous eastern region have been buried by a landslide in a double tragedy that could have cost 100 lives, and official said Friday. The bus fell into the ravine Thursday night, killing all 19 people on board. People from the nearby town of Gachala and workers building a hydro-electric project went to the passengers' rescue early Friday but were buried by a landslide.

INSIDE

- Iran provides better protection for French embassy, page 2
- Ghandour reports on Alia's progress, page 3
- East-West Madrid midway compromise, page 4
- Drought, disease and war threaten African millions, page 5
- New Zealand cricketers suffer set back in London, page 6
- Japan's trade surplus mounts, page 7
- U.S. flexes its muscles near Nicaragua, page 8

Syria reportedly agrees to specify points of conflict with PLO leader

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Tunis

Syria has agreed to proposals put forward by Yasser Arafat through a Cuban mediator on ways to heal the rift between Damascus and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), informed Palestinian sources said Friday.

The Cuban mediator, Levy Farah Balmaseda, minister of cabinet affairs and special envoy of Cuban President Fidel Castro, met with Mr. Arafat in Tunis Thursday night to brief the PLO leader on the outcome of the talks he had with Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm. Mr. Balmaseda, in an interview with the Jordan Times, declined to specify the details of Mr. Arafat's proposals but the sources said they centred round suggestions that Damascus pin point differences with the PLO with the aim of starting a dialogue to heal the rift.

Mr. Arafat was expelled from Syria last month following his charges that Damascus openly supported a revolt in Fatah, the biggest commando movement under the PLO umbrella. Syria has denied the charges.

Saudi Arabia also has promised to help resolve the Syrian-PLO rift by using its influence with Syria, the sources said in Tunis.

The Cuban envoy said that during the talks he had in Damascus with Mr. Kasm, Syria also reaffirmed its total rejection of the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon.

The Cuban envoy was expected to leave for Havana later Friday. Last week, following an urgent session of the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO refrained from publicly criticising Syria for the rebellion in Fatah, stung by dissidents who are demanding a stepped-up armed struggle against Israel and a collective Fatah leadership. In the early stages of the revolt, Mr. Arafat indirectly implied that "certain Arab countries" were behind the mutiny and in mid-June he openly accused the Syrians of siding with the rebels in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley where PLO forces are deployed alongside Syrian soldiers, facing the Israeli forces occupying Lebanon.

The Fatah leadership has decided to strike a compromise with the rebels, although there is a strong inclination in Mr. Arafat's camp not to compromise, the Pal-

estinian sources said in Tunis Friday.

Earlier this month the Fatah leadership made a compromise gesture by replacing two military officers deployed in the Bekaa, whose appointments created a controversy which subsequently developed into the Fatah rebellion.

The PLO is pinning its hopes of resolving the Fatah crisis and normalising relations with Syria only on mediation efforts launched by a special Arab League committee and the Cuban mission, the Palestinian sources said.

The Saudi promise was made during a recent visit Mr. Arafat made to the kingdom where he held talks with King Fahd and senior Saudi officials.

Talks in Belgrade

Mr. Arafat returned to his headquarters in Tunis Thursday after a 44-hour visit to Yugoslavia, where he discussed Middle East questions with Yugoslav officials after earning praise for his leadership of the PLO.

Mr. Arafat had talks with Jovan Djindjic, president of the Communist-led Socialist alliance, and Dobroivoje Vidic, a member of the Communist Party leadership.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said the talks were open and friendly and covered not only Middle East questions in general but also "the position of the PLO."

Wednesday night, Yugoslav State President Mika Spiljak voiced praise of Mr. Arafat's PLO leadership, saying he had always overcome difficulties in the PLO "through democratic dialogue."

In a statement to Belgrade Radio, Mr. Arafat spoke of a plot against the PLO and said problems were being imposed on the organisation "by some Arab countries."

But he added that mediation was in progress to overcome differences between the PLO and "our Syrian and Libyan brethren."

Fatah loyalists say rebels beaten back

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Fighting flared in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley again Friday as Palestinian guerrillas loyal to Yasser Arafat said they were successfully defending their positions there against rebel guerrillas.

State-run Beirut Radio said clashes broke out in the early afternoon in the village of Jdita, where the rebels from within Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Mr. Arafat's mainstream PLO faction Fatah have besieged loyalist positions for almost a week.

The latest clashes, which followed heavy fighting in the same area Thursday, involved heavy artillery weapons, the radio said. Lebanese officials said Mr. Arafat's men had asked Lebanese authorities Thursday night to help them withdraw from Jdita and other embattled posts around the adjacent town of Shoura.

But a loyalist spokesman in Tripoli, Mr. Arafat's main remaining stronghold in Lebanon, denied that such a request had been made and said the pro-Arafat fighters had not lost a single position in this week's fighting.

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, head of PLO information in Tripoli, told reporters: "There have been

no contacts between us and the Lebanese authorities in this matter."

He added: "We are defending our positions, we have not lost any of them."

Mr. Arafat has on several occasions raised the possibility of withdrawing his supporters to Tripoli to save further bloodshed, but Mr. Abdul Rahman said there had been no moves to put this into effect.

He said Syrian troops, who have overall control of the battle area and who support the rebels, had asked loyalists to abandon one position in Shoura. "We refused," he said.

He declined to give casualty figures for the fighting, which has varied in intensity from sporadic small arms fire to heavy artillery and rocket exchanges.

Reports from the Bekaa have also not given firm casualty figures, but reporters said ambulances raced to and from battle scenes whenever fighting broke out.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said fighting began in Jdita last week when the rebels broke a three week-old ceasefire agreement limiting them to 12 guerrillas in the village.



DESTRUCTION IN SRI LANKA: A shopping complex in downtown Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, stands completely destroyed by riots that have rampaged through the country for the past four days (story on page 8)

Palestinians protest in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Hundreds of Palestinians staged a anti-Israel demonstration Friday after prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque for three Palestinians killed in Hebron last Tuesday.

Thousands of Israeli troops waited nearby in case of violent protests, but the demonstrators dispersed peacefully at the request of religious elders.

The mufti of Al Aqsa, Hatib Al Kamal, called on the protesters to leave the area peacefully.

Hebron, second largest town in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has been under curfew since masked gunmen burst into a college,

killing three students and wounding 33.

Palestinians say the gunmen were Jewish settlers bent on avenging the death of a Jewish student in Hebron three weeks ago. Police say investigations have not yet revealed the gunmen's identities.

On Thursday, the Israeli army quickly reimposed a curfew on Hebron after Palestinians, allowed out of their homes to shop, gathered to protest against Tuesday's murders.

The army planned to lift the two-day-old curfew for several hours to allow Arabs to buy food but ordered them off the streets

after about an hour.

The curfew applies only to Palestinians and not Jewish settlers. Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Levy said there had been little progress in the investigation so far.

One military official said investigation had shown the grenade used in the attack was of Israeli army issue.

Arab East Jerusalem Thursday observed a commercial strike for the second day in succession to protest against the murders.

The central market area of the West Bank city of Nablus and the nearby refugee camp of Rafat were also under curfew.

Iraq accuses 'international power' of helping Iranians

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Friday an "international power" had acted as an accomplice of Tehran in Iran's latest offensive on the northern Gulf war front.

Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem made the charge while speaking to a group of journalists here, but he did not identify the "international power."

He said, however, that Iraqi communists, the sons of the late

Kurdish tribal chieftain Mulla Mustapha Barzani and members of the outlawed Kurdistan National Union Party had been involved in the Iranian offensive, which started six days ago into a border area of northern Iraq.

He said Mr. Barzani's sons Masoud and Idris had signed an agreement with Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini to fight the Iraqi government.

Shultz says Israeli redeployment part of withdrawal

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Thursday Israel's planned troop redeployment in Lebanon was a step towards total withdrawal.

Emerging from the White House with Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens after a 30-minute meeting with President Reagan, Mr. Shultz signalled a narrowing of U.S./Israeli differences over the redeployment.

Echoing public comments by Mr. Shamir earlier, he said Israel's attitude was "that this redeployment is the first stage toward total withdrawal in the context of the agreement" reached with Lebanon last May.

Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shamir said their governments held common goals of a total withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops from Lebanon, restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and "security" for Israel's northern border.

The two Israeli ministers held more than 12 hours of talks with

themselves.

Israeli sources said they did not come under pressure this week to cancel the redeployment plan. But U.S. officials privately voiced concern that the plan, coupled with Syria's refusal to withdraw its troops, could lead to a partition of Lebanon.

The Israeli sources said the Americans urged Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arens to make clear that Israel saw redeployment to more secure defence lines in southern Lebanon as a step towards total withdrawal.

As part of this effort, the sources said, they suggested that Israel announce dates for further withdrawals, assuming that Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pull out their men as well.

Mr. Shultz said the Israeli ministers' meeting with Mr. Reagan emphasised "the urgency we all feel in carrying out the objectives that we share with the Israelis and the Lebanese and many others in the region."

Egypt says Israel responsible for Hebron massacre

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

Egypt charged Friday that Israel was directly responsible for last Tuesday's attack in the West Bank town of Hebron, when masked gunmen, believed to be Jewish settlers, killed three Palestinian students and wounded about 33 others.

Egyptian Ambassador Ahmad Tawfik Khalil delivered a toughly-worded speech on the second day of a Security Council debate on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Egypt considers that Israel is directly responsible for the aggression which took place against the Islamic university of Al Khalil (Hebron)," he said.

The only other speaker at Friday's meeting was Richard Oviatt, deputy permanent representative of the Soviet Union, who said responsibility for the "present vilest tragedy and the further aggravation of the situation in this part of the world is borne equally both by Israel and the United States."

No resolution has yet been submitted to the council, which adjourned until Monday.

Jordan opens debate Thursday's debate was opened by Ambassador Abdullah Salah of

Jordan, the council's only Arab member, who said Israeli settlers were part of an official machinery designed to force the indigenous population out of the occupied territories.

Mr. Salah has said what recently happened in Hebron and previous acts of terrorism in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights are practical steps intended to effect a process of systematic evacuation of the residents of the occupied Arab territories.

Since its occupation of the Arab territories, Israel has constructed settlements on well over 60 per cent of the total area of the occupied territories, Mr. Salah pointed out.

Statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and other Israeli leaders clearly indicate the priorities and the objectives behind Israel's political and military activities in the area, he said. The annexation of the occupied Arab territories, particularly the West Bank, is the main objective of the present Israeli government, and for achieving this central objective, the Israeli government follows various policies all leading to facilitating the actual annexation of the occupied territories, he said.

Jordan calls for U.N. action to protect Palestinian rights

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and urged the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council to act according to the U.N. Charter to safeguard peace and security and to stop aggression, occupation and violation of the legitimate rights of the individuals and nations.

Mr. Qasem was addressing the heads of the diplomatic mission of the five permanent member states of the Security Council in Amman when he received them separately at his office Thursday.

He also explained to them the seriousness of the conditions in the occupied Arab territories in general, and the recent Israeli arbitrary measures in Hebron in particular, in the aftermath of Tuesday's attack by armed Zionist settlers at the Hebron Islamic College and the killing and wounding of many Palestinian students.

Mr. Qasem said those objectives are: "To see to it that we get the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon."

"To emphasise the importance of the emergence of a sovereign Lebanon with a strong central government able to rule its territory."

"To find provisions that are adequate to meet the security interests of Israel, particularly in northern Israel."

In the meeting with Mr. Reagan, Mr. Shultz said discussions in addition to Lebanon included the overall peace process and the importance of moving it forward, developments on the West Bank, Egyptian-Israeli relations, and U.S.-Israeli relations.

The secretary of state called it "a very fruitful meeting," adding that he was grateful to both Mr. Shamir and Mr. Arens and to Israeli Prime Minister Begin for the hurried visit by the two officials to the United States to discuss these issues.

Maltese tactics in Madrid provoke anger, impatience

MADRID (R) — Malta provoked anger and consternation Friday at the European security conference by continuing its two-week-old blockade after indicating that it was ready to compromise, diplomats said.

They said many delegations were nearing the end of their patience and the Soviet Union in particular was furious.

Delegates met for one minute and adjourned for six hours after it became clear that Malta was not after all ready to climb down on its demands.

The Maltese had indicated in

Valletta and Madrid Thursday they were prepared to drop their main demand for a meeting on Mediterranean security in return for a face-saving statement.

Maltese Ambassador Evarist Saliba helped draft the statement and sent it back to Valletta saying that there was a good chance of reaching agreement on it Friday. Valletta had replied telling him to withhold agreement.

In Valletta, Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici told Reuters in an interview that a compromise was not imminent.

U.S.-Soviet grain deal seen as political signal

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet agreement to a new grain treaty with the United States was being interpreted by Western diplomats here Friday as a sign that Moscow wants an all-round improvement in relations.

Commenting on the accord in Vienna to sign a new five-year treaty, the diplomats said they were surprised the Soviet side had agreed so soon and that they had conceded to U.S. demands for higher purchase levels.

Under the terms of the deal, the U.S. will buy at least

nine million tonnes of U.S. wheat and corn a year, three million tonnes more than the minimum level under an expiring 1975 agreement.

Following the U.S. embargo—in reaction to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and lifted in 1981—the Soviet Union held down its purchases of U.S. grain even when other supplies were more expensive.

According to the diplomats, the new accord indicates that the Kremlin now wants to restore the U.S. to a permanent position as main supplier.

HOME NEWS

French embassy in Iran given extra protection

TEHRAN (R) — Security has been tightened around the French embassy in Tehran with all streets leading to it blocked off, after a request from the French government for more protection, Iran said Friday.

Paris made the request after a man who said he represented an Armenian guerrilla group called the French news agency AFP here Thursday and threatened a rocket attack on the embassy within 48 hours.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA quoted a foreign ministry official as saying the increased security measures also included stationing more police around the embassy. He made no mention of the Armenian threat.

Armenian guerrillas demanding the release of colleagues held in France have claimed responsibility for three bomb attacks on French targets in Tehran in the last week and have repeatedly warned that they will strike again.

The latest threat came a day after five Armenians attacked the Turkish ambassador's residence in Lisbon, finally killing themselves and two other people.

The Armenians operating in Tehran say they belong to the "Orly group," believed by French police to be connected with the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

Many of the Armenians whose release is being demanded by the Orly group are suspected members of ASALA.

They were picked up after a bomb explosion on July 15 at the Turkish Airlines desk in Paris' Orly airport in which seven people died. ASALA claimed responsibility for the attack.

Diplomats estimate there are about 200,000 Armenians in Iran, many of them in Tehran and the central city of Isfahan.

Portuguese premier warned LISBON (R) — A telephone caller claiming to be a spokesman for Armenian guerrillas has threatened the life of Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares, a Portuguese news agency said Friday.

In a call to the agency Thursday night the self-styled spokesman also vowed to avenge the deaths of five Armenian gunmen in an attack on the Turkish embassy here on Wednesday.

He said the Portuguese police were responsible for the deaths and added: "We cannot forget it was Mario Soares who gave the police the order to intervene."

Speaking in Portuguese with a foreign accent, the caller added: "The Lisbon action group of the Armenian Revolutionary Army will go into operation again in Portugal."

Claiming that the Armenian group had the support of Portuguese extremist organisations, he added: "Our brothers will be avenged. We shall act again in Portugal."

The five guerrillas killed in Lisbon Wednesday may have been from Beirut but this was not yet clear, Armenian sources have said.

Police sources in Lisbon said the guerrillas reserved hotel rooms in Portugal from a public telex in Beirut and entered the country on Lebanese passports.

The Armenian sources commented: "They could have come from here. On the other hand, the passports may have been forged."

"We have heard news reports mentioning their names. Some did have a familiar ring but then many Armenian names sound similar."

They added that they had not heard of the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA) until it claimed responsibility for shooting a Turkish diplomat in Brussels two weeks ago.

"We do not know who they are. These groups keep themselves very secret. But we think they are separate from ASALA."

Armenians estimate they number about 200,000 in Lebanon, mostly in Beirut.

The sources added: "These are obviously young people, fed up with diplomatic ways of stating our cause. They think this type of armed struggle is the best way."

"We think the five who died Wednesday did commit suicide, as their group claimed later. They probably felt they were preparing the ground for understanding of our cause, firstly awakening public opinion among Armenians so that they do not forget, and secondly, arousing opinion worldwide."

"Most Armenians here understand what these groups do, so long as the attacks are at the level of Turkish diplomats. But we are against causing any harm to foreigners," the sources said. "We give them moral support."

They said they feared Turkey's military government would find ways to carry out reprisals against Armenians, perhaps in Beirut.

"We think it's logical that there will be reprisals. But if there are, it will be a case of state terrorism by the Turks."

The sources said Armenians did not realistically expect to win back their homeland in the foreseeable future.

"We don't see it tomorrow, or in five years. But things happen in world politics. It could be an opportunity will arise. Trouble in the Soviet Union. Trouble in Turkey, perhaps with the Kurdish problem."

"If an opportunity arises, we must be ready. We must not let it slip," one of the sources said.



LULL BEFORE THE STORM: Guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat talk about the strategies of the day in Jdita Wednesday, during a lull in the fighting

between them and rebel elements outside Beirut. These fighters were in the town of Jdita in the Lebanese mountains waiting to take up new positions in anticipation of more fighting. (A.P. wirephoto)

Oman rejects Iranian threat to block Strait of Hormuz

KUWAIT (R) — Any Iranian attempt to block the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf would constitute direct intervention in Oman's territory and internal affairs, Oman's ambassador to Kuwait said Friday.

The ambassador, Saud Al-Ansi, quoted by the Kuwait news agency, was commenting on Iran's statement that it would block all oil exports from the Gulf if Iraq disrupted Iranian oil movements.

"This statement is intended to provoke unrest and instability and to give outsiders an opportunity to intervene in the Gulf region," the agency quoted him as saying.

Oman would not allow or accept foreign intervention in the area, he added.

Oman's Musandam Peninsula lies at the southern side of the Strait of Hormuz, and the sultanate maintains air force and naval facilities there.

But military and diplomatic sources say Oman, despite having among the best equipped and trained military forces in the Gulf, would be hard-pressed to prevent any concerted Iranian effort to block the waterway.

Iran's navy is greatly superior to the Sultanate's small force of corvettes and coastal patrol vessels.

which though equipped with Exocet missiles would be able to do little more than harass an Iranian naval blockade, the sources said.

The Omani air force is also substantially outnumbered by Iran's although much of Iran's air power is tied up on the Gulf war front.

Oman has no minesweepers and would thus also be unable to counter an Iranian attempt to mine the Strait, the sources said.

But they noted the Sultanate maintains close military ties with the United States, which has said it would guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf if Iran carried out its threat.

Iraqi holidaymakers flock to Kurdish hill resorts

SARE RASH, Northern Iraq (R) — Holidaymakers are flocking in their thousands to cool mountain resorts in northern Iraq despite bitter fighting against an Iranian attacking force on the Kurdistan border to the east.

Jet fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships pass daily overhead for the front 160 kilometres east of this hill resort.

Para-military people's army troops guard strategic points in the area, and every night hundreds of tourists—who have fled the stifling 50 Centigrade (120 F) heat of the plains—gather round cafe television sets to watch the latest war communique from Baghdad.

Otherwise, life is normal and Kurdistan with its 2.5 million people has every appearance of stability as an election campaign in the autonomous region continues.

Dozens of placards line roads in the area advertising the candidates.

Officials have warned, meanwhile, that Iran is building fresh troop concentrations on the central front, which takes in the Mandali region west of Baghdad.

Iraqi aircraft are also reported to be attacking these Iranian positions.

State-run Iraqi television Thursday night screened a seven-minute film of war action on the northern front.

The film showed heavy artillery pounding mountain peaks, helicopter gunships attacking the slopes and a number of Iraqi soldiers advancing under cover of the fire.

It also showed several Iranian prisoners of war.

Turkey to hold talks with Greece

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Greece, which opened official talks three days ago for the first time in many years, will meet in Athens in January to discuss economic and tourism issues, a joint communique said Friday.

The communique, which followed meetings here between ambassadors of the two countries, said "the sides had a substantive exchange of views and determined the areas of cooperation between the two countries."

The decision to hold meetings at ambassadorial level on non-controversial issues was made by the countries' foreign ministers when they met in May in Paris.

Egypt warns Israel about current bilateral relations

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, the only Arab country to have diplomatic relations with Israel, will not send an ambassador to Tel Aviv until the Jewish state changes its Middle East policy, an Egyptian minister was quoted as saying Friday.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the Cairo daily Al-Akhar that an ambassador would take up his post in Tel Aviv only when "the political atmosphere in Israel conforms with the spirit of the peace treaty (with Egypt) and the Israeli government genuinely contributes to achieving stability in the region instead of trying to impose hegemony and expansion."

Egypt recalled its ambassador in September 1982 in protest against Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The minister dismissed Israeli claims that the non-despatch of an ambassador was a violation of their 1979 peace treaty and said Egypt remained firmly committed to the Camp David peace accords.

He added: "Events on the West Bank, including the murder of Palestinian students in Hebron and Israeli practices of oppression in occupied Arab territories are not encouraging to send an ambassador to Tel Aviv."

Beirut gunmen blow up truckload of Israeli fish

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen in West Beirut stopped a truck loaded with fresh fish from Israel Thursday and blew it up with a hand grenade, state-run Beirut Radio reported.

There were apparently no casualties in the incident.

Many Lebanese, particularly in the Israeli-occupied south, have complained recently that the Israelis are blocking free transit of Lebanese goods and flooding the market with their own products.

The radio said unidentified masked gunmen stopped the truck and ordered the driver to get out. They then poured oil over the fish and threw in a grenade, blowing up the truck, it added.

The radio said the gunmen stopped the truck at Bourj Abu Haidar, near the busy Caroubie Street. They ordered the driver to tell the truck's owner not to buy Israeli fish, it said.

Small businessmen in southern Lebanon accuse the Israelis of undercutting their prices, particularly for fresh food such as fruit and vegetables.

Eyewitnesses in the southern town of Sidon have said Israeli gunboats regularly refuse to let Lebanese or foreign vessels berth there.

Grocers in Beirut say it is hard to tell the source of most products but there is little doubt a lot of fruit and vegetables come from Israel.

A Reuters correspondent recently in Naqoura, near the Israeli-Lebanese border, saw several truckloads of melons entering Lebanon from Israel despite the fact that southern Lebanon is overflowing with the fruit.

Tehran reportedly arrests 22 more Baha'i members

LONDON (R) — Twenty-two prominent Baha'i sect members have been arrested in Iran following executions last month of 17 Baha'is accused of espionage, a spokeswoman for the sect said in London Thursday.

Tehran, the south-west city of Shiraz and Mashhad in the north.

Three men and three women held in Yazd, in central Iran, had been exiled to Khash near the border with Pakistan, she said.

Iran last month ignored an appeal for clemency for the condemned Baha'is from President Reagan. It said Baha'ism, a 19th century offshoot of Shi'ite Islam, was not a religion but a Washington-backed political party.

Polisario strikes again

RABAT (R) — Moroccan forces have driven off a big attack on a remote southern outpost by guerrillas fighting for the independence of neighbouring Western Sahara, the Moroccan news agency MAP said.

directions on Tuesday night and launched their attack with intensive shelling by tanks and artillery.

It was the second major assault on the outpost of M'sied by Polisario Front guerrillas this month, ending a virtual truce which lasted more than a year.

The Polisario has been fighting Morocco over the Western Sahara for more than seven years, but M'sied is an undisputed Moroccan territory just north of the former Spanish colony.

The agency said the guerrillas advanced on M'sied from three

Abe tour to include Iran, Iraq, Turkey

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, committed to boosting Japan's role in the world, is sending Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe to five Gulf and East European countries.

Mr. Abe will be the first foreign minister of a major industrialised country to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979 and the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Romania and Bulgaria.

His two-week tour beginning on August 2 will also include Iraq and Turkey, where his stop in Ankara will be the first by a Japanese minister since the end of World War II.

Since Mr. Nakasone took office last November, he has reinforced ties to the United States and called on Japan to take a more active role as a member of the Western bloc.

Mr. Abe told reporters the main aim of his visits to Iran and Iraq

was to strengthen relations with them, not to mediate in the Gulf war.

"Of course, aside from establishing the firm ground of our bilateral relationship, we will be appealing for an early end to the war," Mr. Abe said.

Despite the political upheavals in Iran since the overthrow of the Shah, Tehran and Tokyo have maintained a working relationship, largely through trade and economic ties.

Mr. Abe told his counterparts during the recent Williamsburg summit that Iran is beginning to adopt more realistic policies because of its isolation and that this should be encouraged.

Mr. Abe's visit to Tehran follows an agreement between the Japanese and Iranian partners, after long talks, to resume work on the giant Bandar Khomeini pet-

rochemical complex, originally estimated to cost \$3.5 billion.

Iran has agreed to pay all remaining costs for project, while Japan's Mitsui group will continue to provide technical assistance and advice to complete the project by 1989.

In Baghdad, Mr. Abe will appeal to Iraq not to carry out a recent threat to attack the Bandar Khomeini complex, which has already been bombed six times, ministry sources said.

Mr. Abe is also expected to conclude negotiations on an extension of the deadline of August 15 for Iraq's use of previously committed Japanese loans, the spokesman said.

Ministry sources said Japan planned to extend the deadline by five years on condition that the funds would not be disbursed before the war ended.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 17:30 Koran 17:50 Cartoons 18:10 Invaders from Space 18:30 Magnificent World 18:45 Caroons 19:20 Local Programme 19:30 Agricultural Programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:20 Arabic Series 21:40 Local Programme 22:15 Arabic Play 23:00 News in Arabic 23:10 Play Continues FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:30 N.A.S.H. 21:30 Saturday Variety Show 22:00 News in English 22:15 Play RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM & partly on 95.00 KHz. SW 07:10 Morning Show 07:30 News Bulletin 10:00 News Summary 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:30 Picnic Time 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 17:00 Jordan Weekly 17:30 Special Feature 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Special Feature 18:30 Books of Islam 19:00 News Summary 19:30 Top Twenty 20:30 Date with a Star 21:00 News Summary 21:05 Classical Concert 21:55 News Summary 22:00 First Spin 22:30 News Summary 23:05 Country Music 24:00 News Headlines. Sign Off BBC WORLD SERVICE 034, 720, 1413 KHz. 06:00 Newswatch 06:30 Kings of Jazz 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections		07:00 World News 07:09 British Press Review 07:15 About Britain 07:30 News Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newswatch 08:30 Album Time 09:00 World News 09:09 News about Britain 09:15 From the Weeklies 09:30 Classical Record Review 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Chase 10:30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Unfay Letters 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Science in Action 12:15 What's On 12:30 World News 12:39 News About Britain 12:45 About Britain 13:00 News 13:09 News 13:30 Monday 14:00 Radio Newswatch 14:15 Troops in the Colour 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Commentary 15:15 Network U.K. 16:30 Songs of an English Summer 16:00 Saturday Special 16:30 Arranged for the Piano 17:00 Radio Newswatch 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 20:00 World News 20:09 News About Britain 20:15 Private Lives 20:30 Promenade Concerts 21:30 Good Books 21:45 The Classic Albums 22:00 World News 22:09 Commentary 22:15 Foreign Exchange 23:15 Kings of Jazz 23:30 Wagner in London 24:00 World News 24:09 From Our Own Correspondent 00:30 News Ideas 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Meridian VOICE OF AMERICA 1260, 7205, 11925, 15205 05:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, News Summary at 30 minute past the hour. 17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 American Viewpoints 18:30 Press Conference USA 19:00 News 19:10 This Week 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News Weekend Survey of World News, Correspondent's Reports, Music, Cultural Events and Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Conference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend Survey of World News, Correspondent's Reports, Music, Cultural Events and Features		CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 British Centre Library 41520 French Cultural Centre 36147-8 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hayat Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555 SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jdita Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) *Jdita Amman. Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jdita Amman. 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jdita Amman. 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jdita Amman. 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 75261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 71751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249. MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 517661. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jdita Al Qaf'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim world containing a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jdita Amman. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664241. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37164. PRAYER TIMES 03:15 Fajr 04:50 (Sunrise) Shuruq 11:43 Dhuhur 15:24 'Asr 18:35 Maghrib 20:09 Isha		AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 33250, 33070, 33082, 33171, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 06:05 Cairo (EA) 06:09 Cairo (R) 06:25 Agaba (R) 06:35 Abu Dhabi (R) 06:45 Jeddah (Saudia) 20:15 Baghdad (R) 20:30 Cairo (R) 20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (R) 20:35 Cairo (EA) 01:25 Cairo (EA) 04:45 Cairo (EA) MONEY EXCHANGE Local sell/buy rates in Jds Belgian franc 69.6 / 70 Dutch guilder 124.5 / 125.2 Egyptian pound 327 / 330.7 French franc 46.3 / 46.8 Iraqi dinar 446.7 / 456.6 Italian lire (for 100) 23.6 / 23.8 Japanese yen (for 100) 151.5 / 152.4 Kuwaiti dinar 124.2 / 124.7 Lebanese lira 81.4 / 82.6 Omani rial 104.9 / 105.4 Qatari riyal 99.6 / 100.1 Saudi riyal 105.6 / 106.1 Swedish crown 47.2 / 47.5 Swiss franc 172.5 / 173.5 Syrian lira 63.6 / 64.4 UAE dirham 99.1 / 99.7 U.S. sterling pound 559.1 / 562.5 U.S. dollar 365 / 367 W. German mark 139.3 / 140.1 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. There will be a slight increase in temperature with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C Amman 17/30 Agaba 24/37 Deserts 19/23 Jordan Valley 24/37 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Agaba 28 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 661111 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 22090-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 55390-1 Electric Power Co. 36391-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 55333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jdita Amman Maternity 42362 Malinas, J. Amman 36140 Paediatric, Samalana 66471-4 Shmeisani Hospital 66131 University Hospital 84345 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Munasher Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abadi 665292 Al-Ahli, Abadi 66164 Iranian, Al-Muhajirun 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marka 91611 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Zakariya Ashour 76923/76073 Dr. Mohammad Musa Abbadi (-) GENERAL Jordan Television 73111 Radio Jordan 74111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Police complaints 66178 Telephone: Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 19 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram 19 Repair service 11	
MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jds per kg. Apple (American) 500 / 450 Apple (Double Red) 150 / 120 Apple (Golden) 150 / 120 Apple (local) 150 / 120 Apple (Stark) 150 / 120 Apricots 300 / 250 Bananas 270 / 220 Beans (Mukammal) 230 / 200 Beans 240 / 200 Cabbage 160 / 130 Carrot 150 / 120 Cauliflower (white) 180 / 140 Chick peas (green) 600 / 500 Chick peas (dry) 90 / 70 Corn 150 / 120 Cucumber (large) 150 / 100 Cucumber (small) 210 / 180 Eggplant (large) 100 / 70 Eggplant (small) 130 / 140 Falcum 360 / 300 Grapefruit 210 / 190 Grapes 300 / 250 Grape leaves 360 / 300 Lemon 350 / 300 Marrow (large) 150 / 120 Marrow (small) 150 / 120 Mellow 70 / 50 Melon 90 / 60 Melon (super) 120 / 100 Onion (dry) 250 / 200 Okra 250 / 200 Oranges 300 / 250 Peaches 300 / 250 Peas 300 / 250 Peas (super) 300 / 250 Pepper (green) 280 / 230 Pepper (Hot Green) 220 / 180 Plums (red) 280 / 230 Potatoes 170 / 140 Radish 130 / 100 Tomatoes 150 / 120 Watermelon 90 / 60		MARKET PRICES 03:15 Fajr 04:50 (Sunrise) Shuruq 11:43 Dhuhur 15:24 'Asr 18:35 Maghrib 20:09 Isha							

03:15 Fajr
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15:24 'Asr
18:35 Maghrib
20:09 Isha

NEWS

Housing Corporation figures announced for 1969 until 1982

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation has completed 69 individual housing schemes between 1969 and 1982, according to a statistical bulletin issued here Tuesday and published by Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday.

The bulletin said that the corporation had in total built 13,849 housing units at an estimated cost of JD 93.6 million.

According to the bulletin, the

corporation had set up housing projects in different parts of the country but with the main emphasis on Amman, Balqa, Va'an and Irbid governorates, in accordance with the density of the population in each governorate.

It said that 27 housing projects were built in the Amman area, three in the Balqa governorate, 15 in the Va'an governorate and 10 in the Irbid governorate during this period.

Government considering introduction of old age pensions, says 'Obeid

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is seriously studying the possibility of introducing a law to give all Jordanian citizens an old age pension whether covered by Social Security Corporation (SSC) services or not, according to SSC director Farhi 'Obeid.

He said that the SSC also hopes to give cover to 200,000 people by 1985 with the inclusion of new sectors of the working population not as yet included.

Speaking at a meeting of SSC's liaison officers attached to 50 companies and organisations, Mr. 'Obeid also said that the SSC's funds are being invested in a number of major projects in the best interest of the contributors.

He also stressed the role of liaison officers who, he said, are available to advise prospective members on the SSC's regulations and activities.



Social Security Corporation (SSC) director Farhi 'Obeid Wednesday addresses a meeting of SSC liaison officers in Amman (Petra photo)

University enrolment offered by post offices

AMMAN (Petra) — Post offices throughout the country will again this year offer their services to students wishing to enroll at the two universities in Jordan, according to Ministry of Communications Under-Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif.

He said that post offices will be supplied with special application forms Saturday to be issued to the applicants on Aug. 1. The applicants will fill in the forms and

enclose the registration fees before handing the applications to the post offices which in turn will forward them to the two universities, Mr. Ibn Tarif said.

He added that clear instructions have been given to the post offices on the means of handling the applications and on forwarding them to the universities so as to ensure speedy and efficient dispatches.

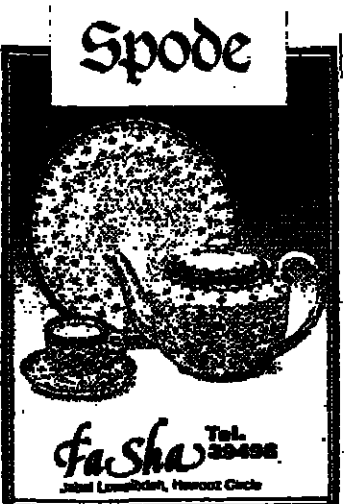
This is the fourth year the post offices have offered this service, and it is hoped that it will be no less successful than in previous years, Mr. Ibn Tarif said.

Navigation meeting held in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan is currently taking part in a board meeting of the Arab Company for Sea Transport and Navigation which opened in Baghdad Wednesday.

The board members, from Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Sudan and Iraq, will discuss subjects connected with the company's projects and future programmes. They will also endorse the 1977 agreement on the investment of the company's deposits.

The company was established in 1962 by the Council of Arab Economic Unity with an initial capital of \$17.645 million.



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Prime Minister Mudar Badran engrossed in the construction of the new industrial estate currently being built at Sahab during a visit Wednesday to the site (Petra photo)

Ministers tour new JD15m Sahab estate

Badran: Industrial estate will help curb pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Wednesday that the aim of establishing industrial estates in the country is to bring together factories and workshops in specially assigned, well planned areas which can be serviced by modern facilities.

Collecting industries in one area is bound to curb pollution of the environment in urban regions and help to ensure that everyone adheres to public safety regulations, Mr. Badran added.

The Prime Minister was speaking during a visit to the Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE), situated around 15 kilometres south-east of Amman.

Accompanied by the ministers of finance, labour, industry and trade and the interior, the prime minister toured the project, which is being set up on 2,500 dunums of land, and was briefed by the di-

rector of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Faysal Suheimat on the project's three stages.

Preparatory work for the implementation of the first stage on an 850 dunum plot has already been carried out and work has now started on administrative and service buildings and the construction of an infrastructure network, Mr. Suheimat said.

The SIE, he added, occupies a uniquely central location and can be easily reached from all parts of the country and the Gulf states, is

mid-way between Amman and the Queen Alia International Airport and is connected with main roads with Aqaba in the south.

Mr. Suheimat also spoke about the incentives and privileges which factories can enjoy at the SIE site.

The SIE, the first project carried out by the JIEC, is expected to cost JD 15 million to establish. It has been planned to house 700 factories which will employ some 25,000 workers.

During his tour of the project, the prime minister called on the minister of finance to allocate the necessary funds to pay the JIEC for the buildings which government departments will be using, and asked the JIEC board to find means of doubling the corporation's capital to enable it to meet all its financial commitments.

Committees review transport investment priorities to 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eight committees set up by the Ministry of Transport have embarked on a study of a lengthy report on investment in Jordan's transport sector from now until the year 1990.

The report, prepared by a consultancy firm, includes projects to be implemented in the land transport, railway, airport and seaport sectors which are estimated to cost JD 450 million, with slight adjustments according to raw material prices fluctuations.

Reports due November

The Ministry of Transport has distributed the report to the eight committees to be studied in detail by sector before submitting their reports to the ministry in three months time.

The first committee will deal with the section concerning airports and air services. It is composed of representatives of the

Civil Aviation Authority, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Ministry of Transport and the Queen Alia International Airport.

The second committee is entrusted with studying the economic principles of transport and Jordan's projected transport requirements. It is composed of representatives from the Ministries of Transport and Public Works and the National Planning Council (NPC).

Road safety policy

The third committee is entrusted with studying road safety. It comprises representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Transport and road safety societies.

The fourth committee will consider the railway sector. It comprises representatives of the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Hijaz Railway, the NPC and the Ministry of Transport.

Overland transport

The fifth committee has been entrusted with studying overland transport in general. Its members represent the Jordanian Syrian Overland Transport Company, the Iraqi-Jordanian Transport Company, the Public Transport Corporation and the NPC.

The sixth committee, which has been asked to study the road sector, includes representatives of the Ministries of Transport, Public Works and the NPC.

Seaport facilities

The seventh committee is to study the seaport and navigation facilities. Its members are representatives of the Ministries of Transport and Public Works and the NPC.

The eighth committee's members will study the administrative and economic principles of transport and transport policies to be made up of representatives of the Ministry of Transport and the NPC.

British Council play's run extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Council has decided to extend the run of its production of Noel Coward's romantic comedy "Private Lives" by two performances after the three originally scheduled nights all sold out.

The additional performances will be staged Thursday and Friday July 28, 29 at the British Council Centre on Jabal Amman. The curtain will rise at 8 p.m., but refreshments will be available in the centre's grounds from 7:15 p.m. onwards.

The play, for which tickets are still on sale priced JD 2, stars Martin Savage as Elyot Chase, Margi Bryant as Amanda Fyenne, Jack Rigg as Victor Fyenne, Sally Kemp as Sybil Chase and Antoinette Farah in the cameo role of Louise the maid.

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Haj buses provided

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) has assigned 124 buses to transport Jordanian pilgrims to the holy places in Mecca in the coming pilgrimage season, according to PTC director Ibrahim Mahadin.

He said that the PTC will loan these buses to sub-contractors in charge of transporting the pilgrims who will be charged JD 45 for the

trip. The loan of buses to private contractors is in compliance with regulations laid down by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for this year's pilgrimage, Mr. Mahadin explained.

He said that the buses will be from the reserve stock and will not be needed inside Jordan during the pilgrimage season.

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The good old tactics!

A NEWS report from South Africa recently suggested that Pretoria plans to uproot nearly a quarter of a million blacks from three townships near Cape Town in one of the biggest forced removals in South Africa's history. The move is reportedly causing great anxiety among those blacks who have lived there for several decades. But does a racist government really care? A short glance at the history of South Africa shows that forced removals of blacks are not new to the white-dominated government, for, according to a survey published recently, the government has already relocated 3.5 million non-whites since 1960.

Such schemes by the South Africans remind us of Israeli moves in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is not enough that the Israelis have for so many years been usurping Arab lands and forcing its Palestinian inhabitants to evacuate their homes and leave their country, the Begin government is now planning to evict all Palestinian refugees from their camps in the occupied territories and forcibly move them to the Jordan Valley near Jericho. Palestinians living in the towns need not worry about evictions of course; the Jewish settlers are out to eliminate them physically from the surface of the earth. Remember the Hebron massacre of Tuesday?

In both Israel and South Africa the use of force, torture and killing of (Palestinians by the Israelis and blacks by white South Africans) have been and will continue to be a way of life for the two regimes and plainly visible to the whole world. Looking at events taking place in these two countries, we cannot help but remember the methods used by the Nazis, during and before World War II, who manipulated peoples, countries and lands, torturing and killing, in the most atrocious ways, the inhabitants of the countries they occupied and bringing back slavery and degradation in the 20th century. What was the world's answer to the Nazis? It joined forces and destroyed their brutal regime. Now that there are these two not-so-different regimes which are simply defying humanity and trying to destroy the integrity and pride of two whole peoples, what is the world doing about them?

While such inhumanity is being practised openly in our midst, those who call themselves the protectors of democracy and human rights are not only sitting back and watching the Israeli and South African atrocities but they are also supplying direct and indirect assistance to them in defiance of all basic principles and of humanity itself. As for us, nothing has basically changed: we continue to adopt the good old wait-and-see tactics.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel's sequence of crimes

WHAT HAPPENED in Hebron Tuesday is one in a long sequence of crimes which the Zionists have committed in Palestine and against the Arab Nation. The Israeli information media, which described the attackers as 'unknown', were following exactly the same methods previously adopted whenever Zionists murdered Arab citizens and tried to escape the responsibility. We have not yet forgotten those media people who described the perpetrators of the car bombings against the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah in 1980 as 'unknown', in the same way as they described the machine-gun attack on the worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque two years ago, and the 1969 burning of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The Zionist terrorist groups are constantly committing crimes against the Arab population with the full blessing of the Israeli government. This yet another phase in the well-planned plot to force the Arabs to abandon their homeland. The murderers of the Arab students in Hebron will remain 'unknown' as long as the Zionists continue to have the upper hand in our land.

We can only expect such criminal actions from Israel, but we are disillusioned with the attitude of the rest of the world which is usually prompt in trying to find pretexts for the assassins by blaming both the Arabs and Israelis for escalating violence. We do not blame Israel or the other world nations but we do hold the Arab Nation responsible for always being happy to look on apathetically.

Al Dustour: Hebron needs Arab unity

ANOTHER 'BLACK' page was turned Tuesday in the history of the Arab Nation with the murder of Arab students in the occupied town of Hebron at the hands of Zionist fanatics and settlers. No matter how grieved and sorrowful we might feel for the assassination of our kinsmen in the occupied lands, deep down we realise that grief and sorrow will not heal a wound nor will it repel aggression and save the Arab population from further violent attacks.

The massacre in Hebron ought to stand the Arab World face to face with its responsibilities and open our nation's eyes to the imminent danger which is not directed against the West Bank and Gaza but against the Arab people at large. Hebron, which today stands in mourning, appeals to all Arabs for support and help. The Arab town does not need any more denunciations or condemnations but requires physical help. Thus it calls for a halt to the further bloodshed of Palestinian fighters in the Bekas Valley and a mobilisation of Arab states to liberate the whole of the occupied lands.

We also note that the world at large, and particularly the United States, bears a responsibility for the continuous Israeli crimes in Palestine. The U.S. has a special responsibility to stop Israel's criminal behaviour because it supplies it with the weapons and military and material assistance to enable it to commit aggression against the Palestinians and the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Hebron's brave stand

THE CRIME committed by the Zionists in Hebron Tuesday represents a manifestation of Zionist ideology. The killing of the three students and wounding of 30 others constitutes a prelude to the complete assassination of the Arab town, the Arab people and the Palestinians as a whole. The despicable crime is a further link in a long chain of terrorist activities committed by the Zionists against the Arab inhabitants in a bid to force them to abandon their homeland. It comes in the wake of a spate of acts of harassment and intimidations which the Zionist settlers have committed in Hebron and is linked to the recurrent curfew measures imposed by the Israeli government in a bid to totally subdue its Arab population.

Syria — clubbing together to beat the system

By Eric Rouleau

For another angle on present day Syrian society, we move to the northern city of Aleppo, which lies at the intersection of age-old caravan routes. Until the late 1950s, Aleppo was Syria's main agricultural, industrial and economic centre, and the seed-bed of a whole generation of politicians.

The avalanche of agrarian reforms, nationalisations and expropriations that swept down on its wealthy citizens (first under the regime of the union of Syria with Nasser's Egypt, from 1958 to 1961, then under the Ba'ath in 1963), the centralisation of economic power in Damascus, and the break with Iraq, Syria's hinterland and bridgehead to the markets of the Gulf, all conspired to relegate Aleppo to the status of a provincial town.

But the old bourgeoisie still thrives there, as indeed it does in the rest of the country. To be convinced of this, one needs only to pay a visit to the Aleppo Club, the only fashionable nightclub in town. On a typical evening, cohorts of white-jacketed waiters ply 400 or more guests with mescal, kebabs, roast mutton, and mountains of brown rice topped with roast almonds, all washed down with whisky and champagne amidst a constant hubbub of conversation and the occasional roar of laughter. On the dancefloor, young people gyrate wildly in best disco fashion. Later in the evening, their elders show their paces with a sedate tango or waltz.

Square dancing would really be more appropriate for the Aleppo Club, whose faded charm, architecture, old fashioned furniture, and clientele could have come straight out of Luciano Visconti's "Death in Venice". In the days when it was the exclusive stamping ground of rich landowners, merchants and bankers, most of them Christian and all strongly influenced by French culture, the Aleppo Club must have dazzled foreign visitors with its candlelit dinners, exquisite cuisine and concerts.

The bourgeoisie of Aleppo, I was told by one of its representatives, "has nine lives, like a cat". Many of its members emigrated to Europe or the United States where they stashed their money safely away in Swiss or American bank accounts. Those who stayed behind still live in sumptuous family mansions, surrounded by period furniture, objects of art and old masters which would not be out of place in a museum — as they proudly point out to the visitor. "I got my own back on the regime," says one of them. "I'm several times richer now than I was before all that socialist legislation got its claws into me".

The bourgeoisie of the old school find it more convenient to invite their friends to dinner at the Aleppo Club rather than round to their homes because of the problems of finding servants ("What do you expect? They're running the country now!"). It is easy to spot their tables at the club: the women are discreetly elegant, and usually the language spoken is French — and very correct French at that. They pretend not to notice their fellow guests at neighbouring tables — "nouveau riche upstarts" thrown up by the Ba'athist regime.

The latter, who prefer to speak English (not always grammatically), enjoy flaunting their wealth. Their wives, who dress at the great Paris and New York couturiers, are usually a-glimmer with diamonds. When they entertain guests at home or at the club, they tend to hire complete bands, famous singers, or belly dancers for the evening. Wealthy Syrians have no complexes about living it up in

the presence of representatives of the "socialist" government. The guests at the Aleppo Club frequently include high-ranking government or Ba'ath Party officials having a good blow-out. They can also frequently be seen in the cabarets of Damascus (which have names like Crazy Horse, Les Caves du Roy, or Les Anness Folles), where a bottle of whisky costs \$80 (about a quarter of a senior civil servant's monthly salary).

It is an open secret that many public sector officials and civil or military dignitaries belong to what is known as the bureaucratic bourgeoisie, which is closely associated, if not in collusion, with the two other propertied classes already mentioned. The *nouveaux riches* usually come from a rural background — the Ba'ath Party's grass roots — and speak only Arabic. They owe their rise in society not only to the position of power they occupy but to services rendered by "cosmopolitan" compatriots who act as middlemen in international transactions. It has been estimated that over the last ten years the Ba'athist state of Syria has given birth to some 5,000 millionaires.

One of several ways of getting rich quick is to cream off substantial commissions on contracts between nationalised companies and foreign firms. When one remembers that the State controls all major development schemes, 80 per cent of imports and 90 per cent of exports, it is easy to see how some public figures — known to all — have managed, within a few years, to become so rich that they have bought large farms, plantations, and luxury residences not only in Syria but also in Europe and the United States.

Smuggling, that Achilles' heel of the rigidly planned economy, is also rife. All products subject to an import ban or quota, or sold under a State monopoly, are available on the black market, sometimes at rather reasonable prices because they escape sales tax or import duty. This illegal trade thrives almost in broad daylight, despite the prison sentences to which both buyers and sellers are liable. The foreign cigarettes surreptitiously sold on street corners fill cigarette boxes in government ministries. American refrigerators, German television sets and Italian air-conditioners (officially banned to protect local industries) are exhibited in the back rooms of specialised shops. A senior Economic Ministry official put the number of smuggled video recorders in Syria at about 100,000. Society ladies exchange addresses where they can get haute couture dresses, perfumes, and other luxuries.

Smuggled goods either enter the country by sea or easily slip across Syria's frontiers with Turkey, and (especially) Lebanon, thanks to the connivance of officials in the right places. The biggest single smuggler is allegedly the army. Military trucks travel on special roads and stand little chance of being searched, especially when acting on the written orders of field officers.

Another thriving practice is bribery, the bane of all developing countries. Strangely enough, it has become common in Syria only in the last 15 years, according to one Damascus retailer: "Civil servants used to take it as a personal insult if you offered them the tiniest gift. Nowadays, I need big backhanders for people of every grade if I want to get anything done".

There are several reasons for this collapse of public morality: The "liberalisation" measures announced by President Hafez Assad when he came to power in

1970, the influx of Arab capital after the 1973-1974 oil boom, the initiation of ambitious and occasionally useful development projects, the lack of public accountability and the government's desire to strengthen the regime's foundations by going easy on the bourgeoisie, whose members are all the more grasping because they are themselves so close to the reins of power.

The government has, it is true, attempted to crack down on corruption, but only half-heartedly. When somebody gets the full treatment, he is usually a nobody. The recent public hanging of a bank clerk who had embezzled a few hundred thousand dollars excited pity rather than fear.

But the present economic situation has spelled an end to the period of laissez-faire. The flow of petrodollars has reduced to a trickle; as a result of a rash decision to encourage consumer demand, there has been an increase in spending. The balance of trade deficit is alarming high (exports cover only 40 per cent of the cost of imports). To slow down inflation, and to stop the value of the Syrian pound from sinking further, the government has prescribed some strong medicine.

For the last two years importers have had to pay the government an advance of between 25 and 70 per cent of the exchange value of the goods they have ordered, in return for a letter of credit that rarely comes back to them in less than six months. Moreover, they have to buy foreign currency at a higher rate than the one applying to public sector imports. The list of those products which may only be imported through State monopolies or not at all is getting longer every day. The result has been beneficial for the country's finances (imports have plummeted by 50 per cent since 1981), but bad for the private sector, where some small and medium sized firms have gone out of business because they cannot get the needed supplies.

The State has already squeezed out most private wholesalers (who have no more than 20 per cent of the market). It is now directing its fire at retailers: current market shares 70 per cent, by speeding up the introduction of State supermarkets, which sell higher-quality and cheaper products than private shops. Rent control and the confiscation of land in and around built-up areas has appreciably cut down property speculation, until 1980 one of the main sources of private wealth.

Although almost all government officials try to play down these austerity measures, the governor of Hama, Mohammed Harba, is more forthright: "But of course we're going to get rid of the bourgeois-parasites — those who have never invested or produced anything".

Despite all that high-rolling at the Aleppo Club, it looks as though most members of the old bourgeoisie, including supporters of the regime, realise that party is well and truly over. Meanwhile the power structure in Syria guarantees the survival — for many years to come — of the "bureaucratic bourgeoisie" and its cronies.

The government is nothing if not resourceful in filling its coffers. Take car imports, which are a State monopoly. Two years ago, 28,000 Syrians ordered Japanese cars and advanced 80 per cent of the price of each vehicle to the State. The vehicles were delivered to customers last February. The State, of course, makes a profit as well as imposing very heavy taxes and import duty on each car (which quadruples the price). But

the government has secured other benefits too: It managed to get suppliers to agree to a five-year deferred payments scheme, which means that it was able to invest the tidy sum of 1,200 million Syrian pounds (about \$220 million) it had received from prospective customers. The latter are happy, too, for on the quirky Syrian car market the value of their Japanese cars has already doubled since February. And the removal from circulation of such a large amount of consumer cash has helped to curb inflation and stop the Syrian pound depreciating. It is hardly surprising, then, that the government is on the point of importing another consignment of cars on the same terms.

Without such artifices, the Syrian economy would not have been able to achieve what it has. Despite military spending that eats up two thirds of the country's working budget, the Ba'athist government has successfully carried through a number of major projects: it has given the country a road and rail network, extended and modernised ports and airports, built hospitals, universities and sports grounds, brought marshes and areas of desert under cultivation, and provided hundreds of villages with electricity and drinking water. In the last two years, it has brought the inflation rate down from 25 to 12 per cent, and revalued the Syrian pound despite the soaring value of the dollar and rising world prices.

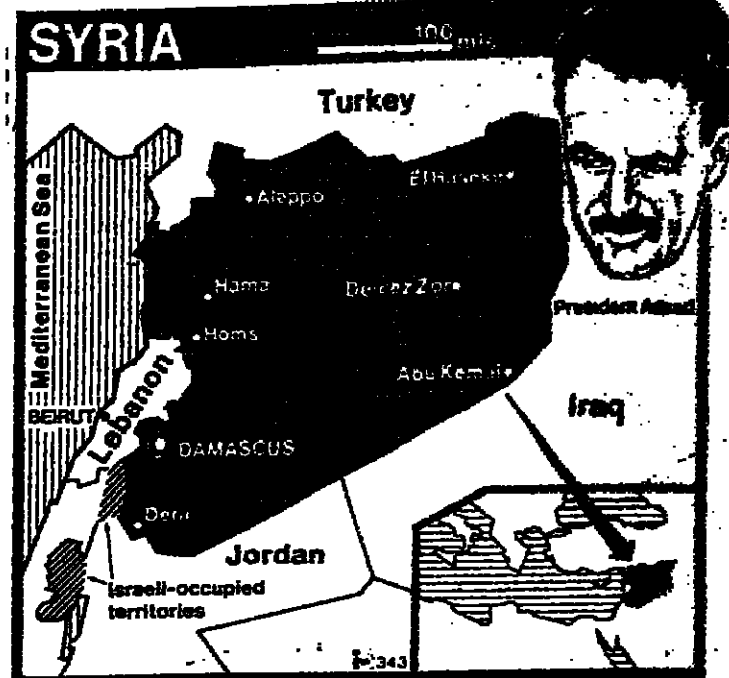
This year's national security budget is twice as high as planned, but when everything is taken into account — education, public health, social security and subsidies for essential foodstuffs — it is clear that the Syrians are more fortunate than most people in that part of the world. And in any case there are no areas of serious deprivation in the country. The massive increase in the number of public sector employees, the overmanned army and praetorian guard, the emigration of almost a million people, from unskilled workers to members of the liberal professions, has certainly sapped the country's strength, but it has also helped to mop up unemployment almost entirely.

The average Syrian is not only guaranteed a job, but enjoys free education, from nursery school to university, and free medical treatment in State hospitals. State supermarkets sell a host of products (bread, rice, sugar, cooking oil, powdered milk for babies, pharmaceuticals and products, and domestic fuel oil) at only a half, a third or even a quarter of the price they command in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon. There are occasional shortages, though, and customers have to be prepared to queue.

The Ba'athist regime treats its farmers, particularly well, granting them low interest loans and letting them have machines, seeds and fertilisers at less than cost price. In return, however, farmers have to sell their whole cereal crop at prices fixed by the government, these are usually considered "reasonable", and even "generous" in the case of wheat (a vital foodstuff) and cotton (a source of foreign currency).

Even so, most small cooperatives make a loss, partly because of their own inability to manage the land rationally (it has usually been broken up into small plots as a result of successive agrarian reforms), and partly because of red tape.

Civil servants have much more reason to complain. Their salaries are not indexed to the cost of living (they last went up in 1980 by between 25 and 70 per cent). They are very low, starting at 1,000 Syr-



ian pounds a month (about \$185) and rising to 4,500 Syrian pounds (about \$830) for a minister. Income tax then lops off about a third. The fact that the salary scale is based not on a person's job but on his or her university degree — an engineer or a teacher, for example, can earn more than the governor of a province or a minister's chief adviser — is not much comfort to anyone.

Despite controlled rents, none of the salaries just mentioned would pay for a four-room apartment — the building happened to have been built before 1970. The doubling of the population (from five to ten million) since the Ba'ath Party came to power 20 years ago and the drift from rural areas have caused unprecedented housing problems. While many families cram themselves into tiny flats and hundreds of thousands of young people postpone getting married, sometimes indefinitely, because they cannot find accommodation, 60,000 apartments stand empty in Damascus alone. Paradoxically, the government refuses to requisition them "out of respect for private property". It has, however, started building housing estates whose units are sold at cost price; even then, not everyone can afford them. Housing is not being built fast enough or in large enough quantities (because of lack of resources), and at the present rate the housing crisis will not be solved for several decades. In the circumstances, it becomes easier to understand why the government turns a blind eye when civil servants take bribes or, if they are more honest, take time off from the office to moonlight.

Like almost all Third World countries, Syria is living above its means, and would have great difficulty in making ends meet if it did not receive financial aid from various Arab countries. The 1979 Arab summit granted Syria an annual income of \$1,850 million. Iraq, Libya and Algeria have not paid their contributions and it has been left to Saudi Arabia and some of the Gulf states to finance Syria's war effort. According to Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Kader Kaddoura, Syria received only \$750 million last year. The

sword of Damocles still hangs over the country. As Mr. Kaddoura says: "We do not want to be at the mercy of political upheavals or the whim of some other Arab Head of State".

A big effort has therefore been made to improve government finances. There has been some success in stepping up the production of phosphates and oil, agricultural output has also risen, except in the case of wheat and barley, where yields have fallen slightly. According to Mr. Kaddoura, the drive to make the public sector profitable bore fruit in 1982 for the first time in 15 years. Syria's rapprochement with Iran, despite serious ideological and political differences, made it possible to make up for Iraq's failure to pay its contribution: Tehran supplies Syria with between six and seven million tonnes of crude oil, of which one million is not charged for. Thanks to austerity measures, Syria has succeeded in cutting down its foreign debt, according to the World Bank, to \$4,200 million — a relatively modest amount in view of the scale of its development programme and military expenditure.

It is true that Syria's official foreign debt does not include credits from the Soviet Union (essentially for arms purchases), which are kept secret. It is presumed that the Russians have given Syria long-term, low-interest loans.

Despite the favourable terms of repayment that the Soviet Union usually grants its "friends", President Assad has always encouraged trade with the West, and in particular with the EEC, which is still Syria's main trading partner. Trade with East European countries, after declining steadily over the last ten years, picked up recently. A number of Western companies have been discouraged by restrictions on the private sector, delays in the settling of invoices, and administrative red tape. Moreover, Syria's own financial difficulties have incited it to turn to more understanding suppliers, particularly those that are willing to provide the Ba'athist regime with the political and military means to defend itself.

— Le Monde

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Sinowatz: Palestinian rights must be respected

VIENNA (J.T.) — Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz has said that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless the rights of the Palestinian people are respected. In an interview published recently in the Austrian daily newspaper Arbeiterzeitung, Mr. Sinowatz, who succeeded former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, also reiterated that Austria under him would continue the same policies pursued by his predecessor on the Middle East. Following is the full text of the interview.

Q: Mr. Chancellor, your predecessor, Dr. Kreisky, with the Middle East policy Austria pursued under him for many years has left you a weighty inheritance: Our country's great prestige in the Arab World but at the same time hostility on the part of the Israeli government and of a large part of the Israeli public. What will you do with this inheritance?

A: In Bruno Kreisky, a man with very great political experience has left politics, a man who had accumulated a large amount of very detailed knowledge of the Middle East situation, who knew and knows all leading statesmen in that region personally and who therefore has a profound understanding of the situation in the Middle East. Hence in this respect Bruno Kreisky's personality is irreplaceable. But as regards the basic line of our foreign policy, in the Middle East question, too,

there will be the highest measure of continuity. This is in accord with our country's interests but also with the traditional sympathy Social Democrats have always left for oppressed and persecuted nations.

Q: The Israeli government has reacted with great hostility to this policy over the last few years. Doesn't that enter into your considerations?

A: It is true that the Israeli government has sometimes criticised our policy very sharply, but one must also say that it certainly also met with understanding among many people in Israel. There are indeed many who understand that oppression of another nation is not a solution, that this is not the way to peace. Let me add a personal remark.

Besides Vienna, Burgenland, where I come from, was the region which had the largest Jewish communities in Austria until 1938. I am therefore very well aware of the sufferings of these people, how people of Jewish faith were persecuted in Europe in the era of Fascism. And so I understand that the survivors and the descendants of these victims of persecution want security and peace.

But you have to look at the other side, too—the sufferings of the Palestinian people. These are people who have been driven from their homes again and again in the course of history right until re-

cently: people against whom cruel massacres have been perpetrated — let me just remind you of Sabra and Shatila.

Hence we have always done everything to contribute to a peaceful solution in the Middle East. But peace is only possible if there is a minimum of justice and hope for the future and if the national rights of the Palestinian people are respected. There can be no durable and secure peace as long as a nation is oppressed.

Q: Economic, political and, not least, moral priorities have led to a special emphasis on the Middle East problem in Austria's foreign policy in recent years. In addition there were Kreisky's personal and biographical background and interests. Will you continue to assert this emphasis in Austria's foreign policy as has been done over the last few years?

A: Austria's foreign policy has paid special attention to the Middle East because we are convinced that the conflict in that region has a direct effect on Europe and is of fundamental importance to world peace. That region is very important for us politically, but also in economic terms because the Arab countries are now among our most significant trading partners, among the biggest buyers of our export products. I believe that the Middle East is bound to be an area of emphasis in foreign policy for any Austrian government.

And as far as the Middle East

question is concerned, the view taken by Austria and especially by the previous federal chancellor for many years, that there can be no lasting peace in the Middle East without a just solution to the Palestinian problem, is now the generally accepted view of the international community.

Q: As minister of education, you were especially concerned with fostering interest in contemporary history among young people, and notably you helped to ensure that the young generation learns about the dangers of anti-Semitism and racism. This has been appreciated by the small Jewish community in Vienna. Now if you continue the Austrian Middle East policy, do you see this as a contradiction to or a break with your enlightening work as minister of education?

A: On the contrary. We must continue this educational work. This is a highly important task. But this will not prevent us from speaking out against the policy of a government if it is incompatible with human rights or conflicts with international order.

Q: Kreisky and the Austrian government played an important mediating role in the question of the exchange of prisoners between the PLO and Israel. What about these talks? What can the federal government now do in this matter?

A: I think the humanitarian role the former federal chancellor was

able to play in the context of the contacts on the question of the exchange of prisoners and in particular in transmitting news to the prisoners' relatives was made possible by his great prestige, the international respect he enjoyed, and his great experience. He very deliberately refused to act as a political mediator. I do not know if and how it will be possible, given current developments in the Middle East, to continue these humanitarian efforts. But in view of our general position in foreign policy, where we attach such great importance to all humanitarian questions in international relations, Austria will of course also be available in the Middle East if we are wanted. We will help wherever we can.

Q: Israel and Gemayel's Beirut government have signed a troop withdrawal agreement without including Syria or the PLO who also have troops stationed in Lebanon, especially in the north. The substance of the agreement as well as the fact that they were presented with a *fait accompli* have prompted Damascus as well as the left and the Muslims in Beirut to reject the agreement. How do you see the situation?

A: I do not want to comment on the details of that agreement. The Lebanese people and the leaders of that country are in a very difficult situation. After so many years of war and civil war, there is a great desire for peace and of

course it is legitimate for every country to wish to be free of foreign troops and foreign armed units. We know that from our own experience. In all these years of the Lebanese crisis, Austria has supported Lebanon, with which we have very long-standing and particularly good relations, in its aspirations for the preservation of its unity and the restoration of full sovereignty over its whole territory. But precisely the Lebanese situation shows how difficult it is to solve partial problems in that region as long as no solution to the basic problem, the question of the Palestinians has been found. So we must also try to understand why Syria and the Palestinians are unhappy about the agreement.

Q: International public opinion has increasingly come to reject Begin's policies. All this — as well as the moderate course which the PLO have been pursuing for a long time now and their readiness for a dialogue — have not prompted the Israeli government to change their policy either with regard to Lebanon or in the occupied areas. Can we or can't we expect any change in this respect?

A: The situation in the Middle East has certainly not become better lately, rather it has become still worse. I do not know whether the Israeli government will change their policy. One can only hope they will. The PLO's moderate course and readiness for dialogue which you mentioned has not so

far led to any result, and so we now see radical forces getting stronger. Those people who have lost hope that there will be a compromise in the foreseeable future.

Thus the things are happening of which Bruno Kreisky has always warned, which he has always feared. We can only hope that the time will come when reasonable people will sit down at the negotiating table on both sides, people who are strong enough to get a solution accepted. A moderate course by one side will not be successful and cannot last when it finds no echo on the other side.

Q: According to the latest polls taken in Israel itself, the popularity of the right-wing government has declined. Israeli public opinion — as one can also see from the mass demonstrations against Begin's policy — is becoming increasingly critical. Do you see a chance of a peaceful solution through a swing of opinion in Israel?

A: I have not seen this poll, and in general you have to be aware of overrating opinion polls. But so far as the chance of a peaceful solution is concerned, I think it will hardly be possible for Israel by itself to achieve peaceful solutions. Israel's friends — I am thinking in particular of the United States — will have a most important role to play in this context.

Q: What do you think should such a peaceful solution in the Middle East look like? What steps

should be taken now? What could Austria do in this direction?

A: I have here on my desk the Foreign Policy Report of 1979. It says that in Austria's view a solution to the crisis in the Middle East is only possible through a policy which recognises four facts:

— (1) Israel is a reality and, like any other state, has a right to recognition and secure borders.

— (2) The Palestinian people are also a reality, and like any other nation they have national rights which must be respected.

— (3) The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is generally recognised by the Palestinians as their representative body. Hence whoever wants to talk to the Palestinians has to talk to the PLO. And I may add that this is true regardless of who may be the leaders of that organisation. You cannot pick your own partners in such talks, and only the Palestinians themselves can decide who is to speak for them.

— (4) Force cannot and must not be a means for the legitimate acquisition of territories, and this means that Israel must withdraw from the occupied areas.

Those were the principles which we thought right in 1979, and they are still valid today.

On the whole, however, my view of the situation in the Middle East is pessimistic. Unfortunately I can see no reason for optimism at the moment.

Gulbenkian finally honours modern art

By Clare Lovell
Reuter

LISBON — In defiance of its Armenian oil-magnate benefactor and Portuguese ecologists, Lisbon's major art centre, the Gulbenkian Foundation, has opened a new gallery dedicated to Modern Art.

The gallery, a bright, airy structure on three levels that creeps up a slope in the landscaped grounds of the foundation, houses works by Portuguese and foreign artists as well as a vast archive to allow frequent changes in exhibits.

Although it took only three years to build, the Modern Art Centre's supporters had to overcome many hurdles before they could give British architect Sir Leslie Martin the go-ahead to begin construction.

The siting of the gallery ran into opposition from a powerful "green lobby" anxious to preserve Lisbon's limited open spaces.

And, because the foundation statutes did not allow for a supplementary collection of modern works, critics felt the project was not in the spirit of founder Cal-

ouste Gulbenkian. Gulbenkian, an oil multi-millionaire with a passion for art who died in Lisbon in 1955 at the age of 86, had little time for works later than the Impressionists.

In a letter to a German art collector, Gulbenkian said he had a very eclectic taste in art but continued: "Very late Impressionist

Gulbenkian wished his priceless art collection, with 3,000 works ranging from Rubens to Monet to be housed under one roof and in 1969, the foundation's gallery was built in extensive grounds in Lisbon.

painting does not interest me. I remain faithful to old, more or less classical traditions."

Known as Mr. Five per cent, Gulbenkian made his fortune largely from his five per cent stake in the Iraq Petroleum Company in 1928, during the early days of oil exploration in the Middle East. Turkish-born and British-educated, he arrived in Portugal in

1942 searching for a peaceful place untouched by World War II.

He loved the country and stayed, leaving his fortune to be set up as a foundation with headquarters in Lisbon, dedicated to art, education, Third World development and aid for Armenian communities.

Gulbenkian wished his priceless

collection, with 3,000 works ranging from Rubens to Monet to be housed under one roof and in 1969, the foundation's gallery was built in extensive grounds in Lisbon.

Since then the gallery's fine art department, spearheaded by Foundation President Jose de Azeredo Perdigao, has been acquiring modern art works, particularly by Portuguese artists.

Perdigao defended the Modern Art gallery project, saying Gulbenkian gave the trustees a free hand in the way they organised the foundation for the benefit of all forms of art.

"Art, Gulbenkian knew very well, is not a static product of man's creation... It is in constant evolution..." Perdigao said at the gallery's inauguration by Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes on July 20, the 28th anniversary of Gulbenkian's death.

"Calouste Gulbenkian searched for beauty whatever its period or the form it assumed," he added.

The gallery's 6,200 square metres (7,400 square yards) occupy a considerable area of the foundation park but its structure fits neatly into the landscape, surrounded by statues, including a Henry Moore reclining nude, and new laws.

The centre provides the first opportunity for a comprehensive exhibition of Portuguese art, until now mostly limited to small attended galleries.

World oil glut may hit Egyptian workers abroad

By Bahgat Badie
Reuter

CAIRO — The decline in the world oil market due to falling demand could deal a heavy blow to Egypt's second most valuable export — its manpower.

About three million Egyptian workers, one in 15 of the population, are employed in the oil-rich countries of the Gulf. The money they sent home used to exceed the sums earned by Egypt for the sale of its own oil.

Now the picture is changing. The long lines of workers queuing at airline offices in Cairo have doubts whether the move abroad will bring them the riches they hope.

There are fears that the oil glut could result in a Nigeria-style exodus of foreign workers from the Gulf, leading to intensification of Egypt's already difficult economic plight.

Nigeria's output fell below 700,000 barrels a day early this year when demand for oil plunged, and it ordered thousands of foreign workers from neighbouring African countries to leave.

A world oil glut has forced member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce its benchmark oil price from \$34 a barrel to \$29. Egypt has for years been providing teachers, doctors, skilled and unskilled workers and peasants to Arab countries, particularly since the heyday of the oil boom.

Demand for Egyptian workers shifts from one Arab country to the other, depending on ups and downs in diplomatic relations between Egypt and its Arab neighbours.

At present the bulk of workers go to Iraq and Jordan, while a few years ago they went to Libya when

relations were good with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

But with the world oil glut and the sharp decline in oil prices, Egyptian labour is expected to suffer, seriously affecting the sorely needed foreign currency remittances.

A Central Bank report for 1981/82 said transfers from Egyptians working abroad fell by about \$803 million or 33.2 per cent over the previous year, dropping from a total \$2.5 billion to \$1.7 billion.

"The world recession and the drop in oil prices were bound to affect foreign currency transfers and the Ministry of Economy is at present making contingency plans to face a possible partial return of the labour force abroad," Economy Minister Mustapha Kamel said.

Although there is as yet no crisis, the Egyptian government is now devoting its attention to org-

anising the hitherto inefficient and haphazard channels of recruiting Egyptian labour to the oil-rich Gulf states.

In many Egyptian villages, up to 60 per cent or more of the male population are working abroad. Egyptian migrant workers in Iraq and Libya are being increasingly used for agricultural work, replacing nationals recruited to the army.

Most cash comes from Saudi Arabia, because it draws the Egyptian professional and skilled working classes.

It said many peasants had been lured into such jobs as street sweeping and garbage collection in sweltering heat, that they dressed in rags and lived in huts reminiscent of the stone age for subsistence wages.

Others were reported to have been recruited to the Iraqi army for the war with Iran.

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The Jerash Festival



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The Higher National Committee For The Jerash Festival

H.M. Queen Noor
(Chairperson)

Mrs. Leila Sharaf
(Deputy Chairperson)
H.H. Princess Wijdan Ali
Mr. Peter Salah
Mr. Muhammad Kamal
Col. Adnan Daghistani

H.E. Ma'an Abu-Nuwwar
Dr. Adnan Badran
(Chairman, Executive Committee)
Mr. Ali Ghandour
Dr. Mazen Armouti
(Festival Director)

Venues & Events of the Festival (Refer to Program, pp. 7-15)

A. Participating Arab Troupes:

- Fairuz & The Lebanese Troupe:**
Fairuz is one of the most prominent Arab singers. Her group consists of 70 dancers & musicians. Performances will include songs, musical shows & folklore dances.
- The Reda Folklore Dance Troupe of Egypt:**
Mahmoud Reda, choreographer & director of the troupe, has brought the vast heritage of Egyptian Folklore to the stage. He is ably supported by dancer Farida Fahmy & Maestro Ali Ismail.
- The Yemeni Folklore Troupe:**
A group of 13 dancers & musicians in colorful Yemeni costumes will present traditional dances & songs depicting heritage in the Arabian peninsula & the Yemen Arab Republic.
- Kawati Television Popular Arts Troupe:**
A group of 47 members, including prominent singers, musicians & dancers in national costumes. The performance includes sketches representing cultural & artistic heritage in the Gulf area.
- Algerian Folklore Troupe:**
A group of 15 participants in national costumes & using traditional musical instruments. They will present a variety of songs & dances in different venues.
- The Tunisian Popular Arts Troupe:**
This group includes artists & musicians in national costumes & will present sketches depicting the colorful life in the Maghreb area.
- "Zaghlul Damer" Popular Poetry Group of Lebanon:**
This group has 4 members & will present sketches of popular Arabic poetry dealing with current social issues. The group has gained prominence in Lebanon & the Arab World.

B. Participating International Troupes:

- The Chinese Acrobatic Troupe:**
The group is comprised of 30 members & will present performances in the South Theatre. The team which comes from the Hunan area has attained international fame by its performances in many parts of the world.
- "Sleeping Beauty":**
Play by the Empire State Institute for Performing Arts (ESIPA) USA. The play is made up of 15 scenes, related in sequential pattern to encompass the Sleeping Beauty fable, but each scene staged to stand by itself. This special adaptation is the product of playwright Richard Shaw & director Joseph Balfour. Inspired by Kabuki, & the classic theater styles of Japan.
- Sufia Kamal of Chhayano - Troupe from Bangladesh:**
Led by Dr. Sufia Kamal, this group of popular artists in comprised of 32 performers & musicians. Sketches of dances and scenes will be presented by this troupe that has gained prominence among Bengali popular arts and drama groups.
- Salzburger Stierwecher - Austrian Folklore:**
Led by Joseph Holzner, this group of 26 dancers & musicians will present attractive sketches of Austrian Folklore dances in national costumes from the Salzburg area.
- La Cimada Niards (Nice-France):**
Founded in 1925, the goal of this troupe was to bring back to life the sound traditions of the old country of Nice & to reassemble the favorable elements of the "Folklore Nipole". The group which is led by Francis Barreis is made up of 36 participants wearing national costumes.
- Hall-Rogers Modern Dance Troupe (U.S.A.):**
The performance which will be presented is a cooperative effort by Lucinda Weaver Hall (A solo dancer) and the Wendy Rogers Dance Company from the Bay Area in California. Both Mrs. Hall & Ms. Wendy Rogers have built a reputation for their innovative choreography of modern dances that depicts craft, imagination and emotional resonance. The repertoire includes a new dance entitled "Jerash".
- Parvatiya Kala Kendra Folklore Troupe of India:**
Established in 1968, the group is a representative cultural organization of the Uttarakhand region of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The program captures the atmosphere of that region through songs and dances, rhythm and movements, costumes and other effects (25 participants).
- "Folk City of Oristano" The Italian Folklore Dance Group of Sardinia:**
The group, comprised of 29 dancers and musicians, will present a set of dances and musical sketches representing the folk art in the island of Sardinia. This group is distinguished for its innovation, choreography and colorful costumes.
- Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver (U.S.A.):**
A prominent group that consists of 4 men who combine the folk music of the Appalachian mountains in the eastern United States, the "bluegrass" style of instrumentation, and contemporary country vocal arrangements. Mr. Lawson has an impressive background in the field of folk music. Other members of his group are also accomplished singers.
- Pipes & Drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders:**
This Scottish military band is comprised of 29 soldiers and will present a program which includes a wide variety of music, singing, and traditional Scottish dancing.

C. Poetry & Literature:

The Poetry & Literature Committee, chaired by Dr. Ibrahim Sa'afin, has produced a 7-session program of Arabic poetry & literature with the participation of prominent poets and literary critics from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and North Yemen. All sessions will be presented at the Artemis Steps.

D. Local Theater:

This segment includes the presentation of four Arabic plays by established Jordanian drama groups. The plays are: "Dum - Dum - Tack," directed by Khaled Tarifi; "Bakra Inshalla," directed by Nadim Sawalha; "Mubakama...," directed by Basem Dalgamoni; "Insu Hirustat," directed by Ghassan Haddad.

The local Theater program is supervised by Hatem Sayyed.

E. Children Theater:

This part of the Festival will also include four plays in Arabic & will be presented at the Sound & light Theater at early hours. The plays are: "Watan Asafir," directed by Naim Haddadin; "Dakrushi," directed by Asmah Alaw; "Sulaiman Wan-Nahla," a puppet play directed by Wafa Gsowes; "Al-Aswad," directed by Akram Abu Ragheb.

F. Local Folklore:

The Jordanian Folklore Committee has assembled an impressive program of traditional dance and music shows under the supervision of Haider Mahmoud and Nariman Roussan. The Program includes the following features that will be presented in different venues:

- "Dakka & Samer" traditional Jordanian dances:**
156 members participate in this program in the form of groups representing youth clubs and associations from different regions. All will be wearing traditional costumes. The set-up was designed and choreographed specifically for the Festival. In essence, the program will be a reconstruction of impressive authentic Jordanian wedding celebrations.
- Circassian Folk Dances:**
These dances are presented by 51 participants from the "Jil" club in Amman, featuring sketches depicting the cultural heritage of the Circassian community in Jordan. The Troupe members will wear traditional costumes of the Caucasus.
- Yarmouk University Folklore Troupe:**
This group, comprising 14 students, was established in 1976. Wearing national costumes, members will present an impressive program of traditional Jordanian "Dakka" dances and songs.
- ALIA Jordanian Folklore Troupe:**
This thirty-member Troupe was formed in 1980, and has participated in several international festivals. Dances are adapted by Choreographer Mano Satamian and costumes are designed by Papou Lahoud.
- The "Shishan Kids" Troupe:**
This troupe was assembled specifically for the Festival, and is comprised of 22 children in national costumes. They will present a program of dances and songs derived from the rich heritage of the Shishan Caucasian Community in Jordan.

G. Local Music & Songs:

- The Jordanian Armed Forces Band:**
The Jordanian Armed Forces Band, led by Lt. Colonel Jamal Attiyeh will play a prominent role at the Festival and will perform daily in the Forum area. The band's lively marching music, its bagpipe corps, and its performances of

traditional Jordanian folk songs have captured the hearts of Jordanians for many years.

In addition, the Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra will perform a classical music concert at the South Theater.

2. Radio Jordan Orchestra:

Radio Jordan Orchestra, conducted by Rawhi Shabana, will participate in the Festival with a variety show which will include a children's choir, a mowasabat choir, several popular Jordanian singers, as well as the instrumental group which will perform music from the Jordanian folklore.

3. Rock Concert I:

One of two rock and pop concerts at the Festival, this show will feature the diverse styles of three Jordanian bands: Singer Usamah Jabbar and his group with a variety of popular Arabic songs; the Dream, a group with its own original compositions; Ulewa, a four piece band, presenting a performance of various rock and jazz arrangements.

4. Rock Concert II:

This concert will be fully dedicated to the unique and original sound of heavy metal. Singer Charles Metropolis will present a solo performance, followed by the 4 - piece Jordanian band, Black Rose. The highlight of the concert will be the heavy metal band Saade which will be performing various pieces from the band's original repertoire.

The rock and music program has been organized by Raja Kassar.

H. Paintings & Fine Arts Exhibitions:

Works by prominent Jordanian artists will be exhibited in the Zein Vasfi in an impressive underground setting. The Cathedral area will be the site where many other works of art, paintings and children art will be exhibited. The exhibition is organized by Mahmoud Taha.

I. Arab Book Fair:

The First Annual Arab Book Fair will take place at the Colonnade West area under the supervision of Dr. Ahmad Sharaka. The Fair includes:

1. An exhibition of publications by academic & non-profit cultural institutions from the Arab World.
2. A wing displaying & marketing children's books & educational toys.
3. A wing of general books for sale and display. Over one hundred Jordanian and Arab publishers will participate in this fair.

J. Jordanian Crafts Exhibition:

This exhibition, organized by Dr. Othman Mathas & his committee, will be a main focus of the Festival. There are around 30 small shops constructed on suitable sites along the Colonnade Street to be used as storage spaces.

During Festival hours, various crafts will be exhibited in the open air in a wonderful setting. The main types of Jordanian crafts that will be exhibited include: Carpet weaving, glass making, wood carving, mother of pearl, ceramics, gold & silver, stone carving, traditional clothes, straw plates, etc.

Each craftsman will demonstrate the techniques of his craft to the public.

K. Fashion Shows:

Two fashion shows will be featured in the Festival. They are:

1. "Karytina Ya Mahshia":
A fashion show produced by Widad Kassar with the participation of 45 volunteer models. Directed by Nader Omran, this show is presented in a festive atmosphere & will feature traditional Jordanian & Palestinian costumes from various regions of the country.
2. "Jordan Through History":
A very attractive show of Jordanian costumes, produced & directed by Basem Sheikh Jawad. The program is sponsored by the Jordanian Rural Development Association.

The show, with innovative choreography and music covers the fashions of Jordan and Palestine from 4500 B.C. to the present.

L. Films & Media Presentations:

The Media Committee, supervised by Farouk Za'abi has packaged a rich program of films and multi-media presentations. There will be one film shown every day at the Cinema Theater. All films are produced & directed by prominent Arab artists from Egypt, Lebanon, & Syria.

Documentary and feature video-tapes and slide-sound presentations, in addition to cartoon films for children, will also be shown daily in the Museum Building.

It should be pointed out that two films, "Omar Mukhtar" & "The Message" will be presented in the original English versions. Both films are directed by Mustafa Akkad, & their cast includes Anthony Quinn & Irene Pappas.

Friday, August 12

(Opening Day - By Invitation Only)

5.00 - 5.15	1 Forum	4.00 - 5.00 6.30 - 8.00 9.15 - 10.15
5.15 - 5.30	H.M. King Hussein & H.M. Queen Noor Open Festival (Military Band)	
5.30 - 5.45	Jordanian Army Band	5.00 - 6.30
5.45 - 6.00	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	8.00 - 9.15
6.00 - 6.15	Algerian Folklore Troupe	10.15 - 12.00
6.15 - 6.30		
6.30 - 6.45	2 South Theater	
6.45 - 6.60	Fairuz & The Lebanese Troupe	5.00 - 6.30
6.60 - 6.75	(Admission By Ticket Only) 10 JD	7.30 - 9.00
6.75 - 6.90	Tunisian Popular Arts Troupe	9.30 - 12.00
6.90 - 7.05	(Tickets) 2 JD	
7.05 - 7.20	3 Artemis Steps	
7.20 - 7.35	Yemeni Folk Troupe (Tickets) 2 JD	5.00 - 6.30
7.35 - 7.50	Hall-Rogers Modern Dance (U.S.A.)	7.30 - 9.00
7.50 - 7.65	(Tickets) 1 JD	9.30 - 12.00
7.65 - 7.80	Arabic Poetry & Literature (I)	
7.80 - 7.95	(Tickets) 1 JD	
7.95 - 8.10	4 Sound & Light Theater	
8.10 - 8.25	Puppet Show (In Arabic)	5.00 - 6.30
8.25 - 8.40	"Al-Aswad" (Arabic Play For Children)	7.30 - 9.00
8.40 - 8.55	Salzburger Stierwecher - Austrian Folklore	9.30 - 12.00
8.55 - 9.10	Rock Concert (I)	
9.10 - 9.25	5 Cinema Theater	
9.25 - 9.40	Jordanian Double Dances & Songs	5.00 - 6.30
9.40 - 9.55	Film: "Omar Mukhtar" (In Arabic)	7.30 - 9.00
9.55 - 10.10	6 Zeas Vaults	9.30 - 12.00
10.10 - 10.25	Painting Exhibition	
10.25 - 10.40	7 Cathedral	
10.40 - 10.55	Fine Arts & Children Art Exhibition	5.00 - 6.30
10.55 - 11.10	8 Museum	7.30 - 9.00
11.10 - 11.25	Media Presentations-Slide Shows	9.30 - 12.00
11.25 - 11.40	9 Colonnade	
11.40 - 11.55	Crafts Displays	5.00 - 6.30
11.55 - 12.10	10 Colonnade West	7.30 - 9.00
12.10 - 12.25	Arab Book Fair, Jerash Community Crafts Exhibition	9.30 - 12.00

Sunday, August 14

4.00 - 5.00	1 Forum	4.00 - 5.00 6.30 - 7.30 9.15 - 10.15
5.00 - 5.15	Jordanian Army Band	
5.15 - 5.30	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	5.00 - 6.30
5.30 - 5.45	Tunisian Popular Arts Troupe	7.30 - 9.00
5.45 - 5.60	2 South Theater	9.30 - 12.00
5.60 - 5.75	Parvatiya Kala Kendra-Indian Folklore	
5.75 - 5.90	(Tickets) 2 JD	5.00 - 6.30
5.90 - 6.05	Fairuz & The Lebanese Troupe	7.30 - 9.00
6.05 - 6.20	(Tickets) 10 JD	9.30 - 12.00
6.20 - 6.35	Kawati Song & Music Troupe	
6.35 - 6.50	(Tickets) 2 JD	
6.50 - 7.05	3 Artemis Steps	
7.05 - 7.20	Yemeni Folk Troupe (Tickets) 2 JD	5.00 - 6.30
7.20 - 7.35	Arabic Poetry & Literature (I)	7.30 - 9.00
7.35 - 7.50	(Tickets) 1 JD	9.30 - 12.00
7.50 - 7.65	4 Sound & Light Theater	
7.65 - 7.80	"Al-Aswad" (Arabic Play For Children)	5.00 - 6.30
7.80 - 7.95	"Shishan Kids" (Caucasian Folklore)	7.30 - 9.00
7.95 - 8.10	ALIA Jordanian Folklore Troupe	9.30 - 12.00
8.10 - 8.25	5 Cinema Theater	
8.25 - 8.40	Jordanian Double Dances & Songs	5.00 - 6.30
8.40 - 8.55	Film: "The Message" (English Version)	7.30 - 9.00
8.55 - 9.10	6 Zeas Vaults	9.30 - 12.00
9.10 - 9.25	Painting Exhibition	
9.25 - 9.40	7 Cathedral	
9.40 - 9.55	Fine Arts & Children Art Exhibition	5.00 - 6.30
9.55 - 10.10	8 Museum	7.30 - 9.00
10.10 - 10.25	Media Presentations-Slide Shows	9.30 - 12.00
10.25 - 10.40	9 Colonnade	
10.40 - 10.55	Crafts Displays	5.00 - 6.30
10.55 - 11.10	10 Colonnade West	7.30 - 9.00
11.10 - 11.25	Arab Book Fair, Jerash Community Crafts Exhibition	9.30 - 12.00

Monday, August 15

4.00 - 5.00	1 Forum	4.00 - 5.00 6.30 - 7.30 9.15 - 10.15
5.00 - 5.15	Jordanian Army Band	
5.15 - 5.30	Salzburger Stierwecher-Austrian Folklore	5.00 - 6.30
5.30 - 5.45	Jordanian Military Orchestra	7.30 - 9.00
5.45 - 5.60	2 South Theater	9.30 - 12.00
5.60 - 5.75	Sardinia Folklore Troupe (Italy)	
5.75 - 5.90	(Tickets) 2 JD	5.00 - 6.30
5.90 - 6.05	"Sleeping Beauty"-ESIPA (U.S.A.)	7.30 - 9.00
6.05 - 6.20	(Tickets) 3 JD	9.30 - 12.00
6.20 - 6.35	Radio Jordan Orchestra & Songs	
6.35 - 6.50	(Tickets) 1 JD	
6.50 - 7.05	3 Artemis Steps	
7.05 - 7.20	"Zaghlul Damer" Popular Arabic Poetry (Lebanon) (Tickets) 2 JD	5.00 - 6.30
7.20 - 7.35	Tunisian Popular Arts Troupe	7.30 - 9.00
7.35 - 7.50	(Tickets) 2 JD	9.30 - 12.00
7.50 - 7.65	Hall-Rogers Modern Dance (U.S.A.)	
7.65 - 7.80	(Tickets) 2 JD	
7.80 - 7.95	4 Sound & Light Theater	
7.95 - 8.10	Puppet Show (In Arabic)	5.00 - 6.30
8.10 - 8.25	Algerian Folklore Troupe	7.30 - 9.00
8.25 - 8.40	Rock Concert (II)	9.30 - 12.00
8.40 - 8.55	5 Cinema Theater	
8.55 - 9.10	Jordanian Double Dances & Songs	5.00 - 6.30
9.10 - 9.25	Film: "Kufi Kassar" (In Arabic)	7.30 - 9.00
9.25 - 9.40	6 Zeas Vaults	9.30 - 12.00
9.40 - 9.55	Painting Exhibition	
9.55 - 10.10	7 Cathedral	
10.10 - 10.25	Fine Arts & Children Art Exhibition	5.00 - 6.30
10.25 - 10.40	8 Museum	7.30 - 9.00
10.40 - 10.55	Media Presentations-Slide Shows	9.30 - 12.00
10.55 - 11.10	9 Colonnade	
11.10 - 11.25	Crafts Displays	5.00 - 6.30
11.25 - 11.40	10 Colonnade West	7.30 - 9.00
11.40 - 11.55	Arab Book Fair, Jerash Community Crafts Exhibition	9.30 - 12.00

Tuesday, August 16

4.00 - 5.00	1 Forum	4.00 - 5.00 6.30 - 7.30 9.15 - 10.15
5.00 - 5.15	Jordanian Army Band	
5.15 - 5.30	Sardinia Folklore Troupe (Italy)	5.00 - 6.30
5.30 - 5.45	Tunisian Popular Arts Troupe	7.30 - 9.00
5.45 - 5.60	2 South Theater	9.30 - 12.00
5.60 - 5.75	Salzburger Stierwecher-Austrian Folklore	
5.75 - 5.90	(Tickets) 2 JD	5.00 - 6.30
5.90 - 6.05	"Sleeping Beauty"-ESIPA (U.S.A.)	7.30 - 9.00
6.05 - 6.20	(Tickets) 3 JD	9.30 - 12.00
6.20 - 6.35	Chinese Hango Acrobatic Troupe	
6.35 - 6.50	(Tickets) 3 JD	
6.50 - 7.05	3 Artemis Steps	
7.05 - 7.20	Arabic Poetry & Literature (II)	5.00 - 6.30
7.20 - 7.35	(Tickets) 2 JD	7.30 - 9.00
7.35 - 7.50	Parvatiya Kala Kendra-Indian Folklore	9.30 - 12.00
7.50 - 7.65	(Tickets) 2 JD	
7.65 - 7.80	Algerian Folklore Troupe (Tickets) 1 JD	
7.80 - 7.95	4 Sound & Light Theater	
7.95 - 8.10	Puppet Show (In Arabic)	5.00 - 6.30
8.10 - 8.25	"Dakkush" (Arabic Play For Children)	7.30 - 9.00
8.25 - 8.40	Jabbour & Company (Rock)	9.30 - 12.00
8.40 - 8.55	5 Cinema Theater	
8.55 - 9.10	Yarmouk University Jordanian Folklore Troupe	5.00 - 6.30
9.10 - 9.25	Film: "Omar Mukhtar" (In Arabic)	7.30 - 9.00
9.25 - 9.40	6 Zeas Vaults	9.30 - 12.00
9.40 - 9.55	Painting Exhibition	
9.55 - 10.10	7 Cathedral	
10.10 - 10.25	Fine Arts & Children Art Exhibition	5.00 - 6.30
10.25 - 10.40	8 Museum	7.30 - 9.00
10.40 - 10.55	Media Presentations-Slide Shows	9.30 - 12.00
10.55 - 11.10	9 Colonnade	
11.10 - 11.25	Crafts Displays	5.00 - 6.30
11.25 - 11.40	10 Colonnade West	7.30 - 9.00
11.40 - 11.55	Arab Book Fair, Jerash Community Crafts Exhibition	9.30 - 12.00

Wednesday, August 17

4.00 - 5.00	1 Forum	4.00 - 5.00 6.30 - 7.30 9.15 - 10.15
5.00 - 5.15	Jordanian Army Band	
5.15 - 5.30	La Cimada Niards of Nice (French Folklore)	5.00 - 6.30
5.30 - 5.45	Jordanian Double Dances	7.30 - 9.00
5.45 - 5.60	2 South Theater	9.30 - 12.00
5.60 - 5.75	Circassian Folklore Troupe (Tickets) 2 JD	
5.75 - 5.90	"Karyema": Jordanian Folklore Troupe (Tickets) 3 JD	5.00 - 6.30
5.90 - 6.05	REDA Folklore Dancing Troupe - Egypt (Tickets) 3 JD	7.30 - 9.00
6.05 - 6.20	3 Artemis Steps	9.30 - 12.00
6.20 - 6.35	Algerian Folklore Troupe (Tickets) 2 JD	
6.35 - 6.50	Arabic Poetry & Literature (II)	5.00 - 6.30
6.50 - 7.05	(Tickets) 1 JD	7.30 - 9.00
7.05 - 7.20	"Mubakama" (Arabic Play) (Tickets) 1 JD	9.30 - 12.00</

ECONOMY

ICI reports robust profits

LONDON (R) — Britain's largest manufacturing company, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Thursday reported robust profits for the first half of 1983, spurred in large part by a weaker pound sterling.

Favourable rates of exchange accounted for almost half of the £153 million (\$232 million) increase over profits for the comparable period of last year.

ICI is a pillar of the British economy and it has also been a favourite share buy for American investors recently.

Total pre-tax profits in the first half of £298 million (\$453 million) were double the £145 million (\$220 million) posted in the same 1982 period.

Second quarter pre-tax profits totalled £170 million (\$258 million) compared with £128 million (\$194 million) in the first quarter.

Market analysts said ICI had been trading on the currency markets during the most recent quarter, a new development.

Mr. Stuart Walsley of stockbrokers W. Greenwell commented: "They did it well this time, but next time they may go wrong."

Xerox profits decline

NEW YORK (R) — The Xerox Corporation, number one in the copier business, Thursday reported that its profits declined in the second quarter of this year and said certain items that helped the company do as well as it did in the first half would not be present in the last six months of the year.

Profits declined for the company to \$153 million in the second quarter from \$161 million in the corresponding period of last year. Revenues rose to \$2.16 billion from \$2.11 billion.

For the half, profits rose to \$282 million from \$271 million in the first six months of 1982, as revenues rose to \$4.17 billion from \$4.11 billion. However, per share earnings declined to \$2.73 from \$3.20 because there were 10 million more shares outstanding.

Japan's trade surplus route to record high

TOKYO (R) — Figures released Friday show this year's Japanese trade surplus has already topped \$12 billion and is now set for a record high.

The finance ministry said Japan exported \$2.77 billion more in June than it imported, taking the trade surplus for the first half of 1983 to \$12.74 billion compared with just \$7.75 billion for the first six months of 1982.

Economists said the figure for 1983 is now bound to reach a record high, approaching some \$30 billion. This compares with \$18 billion for 1982.

The news has prompted fears of further complaints from major trading partners in North America and Europe.

In an interview with Reuters Thursday, Japanese Trade Minister Sosuke Uno appealed to the United States and European Economic Community (EEC) members to make greater efforts to sell their products in Japan.

"I sometimes feel foreign people should make more effort to know about Japan and try to sell harder in the Japanese market," he said.

A new wave of Japanese products, from tiny micro-chips to industrial plants, is reaching foreign shores as world recovery spreads through the major industrial nations.

At the same time Japan benefits from falling oil prices more than

anyone because the country imports about 99 per cent of the oil it consumes.

Major Japanese trading houses have said their export orders in June were 49 per cent higher than in June last year.

The growing Japanese surplus has triggered widespread complaints overseas, especially from countries carrying trade deficits, such as the United States.

Economists at the Japanese Nomura Research Institute said of the growing Japanese surplus: "This will add to international pressure to make the Japanese market more accessible for foreign products."

Foreign countries like Britain, France and the United States have said Japan must do more to import their manufactured products to end a long-sided trading tendency.

Sir Hugh Cortazzi, British ambassador to Japan, said recently: "The international trading system, the preservation of which is of such vital self-interest to Japan, will come under increasing strain unless Japan imports more manufactured goods."

In recent talks Japan has agreed to restrain exports to major trading nations, but still the surplus keeps rising.

Mr. Uno told Reuters: "I feel trade friction is not something of course which is very desirable, and it is all the better if we can eradicate it, which is something we

have to try to do."

Mr. Uno said Japan had about 27,000 businessmen overseas, while the total workforce of foreign companies in Japan was only 3,400.

"Frankly speaking, when you ask me is it really possible for Japan to import to make a substantial contribution to a reduction of the deficit of other countries, the answer is that it is very difficult," he said.

The United States has accused Japan of maintaining restrictions on foreign products and nurturing major industries behind protective barriers before unleashing their exporting energy across the globe.

The finance ministry said Japan's current account balance of payments figure, which took into account invisible trade such as shipping, insurance and tourism, was \$2.22 billion in surplus in June.

This took the half-year total to above \$7 billion against \$1.67 billion in the first half of 1982.

Earlier Friday further signs of Japan's emergence from recession came with an official announcement that unemployment fell to 1.48 million in June from 1.58 million in May.

Japan still had one of the world's lowest inflation rates, at two per cent in June against 2.7 per cent the previous month, officials added.

Pravda highlights failures

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet consumers find shops lacking in products ranging from sports goods and clothing to toys and cosmetics because the chemical industry fails to meet its targets, the official daily Pravda said Thursday.

"There are frequent cases when a whole range of products are absent from shelves for no good reason. Not long ago there was an almost universal absence of washing powder, and today it is hard to buy shoe polish," Pravda said. There was no excuse for these shortcomings, often the result of delays in introducing new techniques, and just as often of inefficiency in using material and skill to hand, it said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed easier, with prices mostly at the day's lows as further weakness on Wall Street encouraged profit-taking for the end of the account. Dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 12.7 at 708.7.

Among leaders, ICI was down 12p at 544 after a low of 542. Grand Met was down 10p at 337 and Thorn fell 13p to 212. Some dealers said the view the market is overbought and has failed to reflect the recent rise in government bond yields prompted selling, although they felt turnover was not particularly large.

Bonds rallied from opening lows, however, as investors were unwilling to sell at the lower levels. Golds and U.S. shares fell. Lloyds Bank was down 15p at 544 as its half year results suffered in comparison with Midland and Natwest, dealers said. In Electricals, Plessey fell 11p at 681 after Friday's annual meeting and ahead of Monday's capital reorganisation.

Car distributor Lex Service was an isolated gainer, up 20p at 358 after 368 on interim results and a bullish statement. Mercantile House, which goes ex-dividend on Monday, was 13p down at 800. Dull oils had B.P. down 8p at 392.

Bonds pared early losses of 1/4 point to around 1/4 point in long dates. Dealers said trade was again very thin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ADB lends \$24.6m to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$24.6 million loan to build a road in Ethiopia's coffee-growing region of Illubaboor, the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported Friday.

Turkish firm to raise \$150m loans

ISTANBUL (R) — Enka Holding, a Turkish firm specialising in construction contracting, said Thursday it planned to raise \$150 million through two international bank loans over the next two months. Company officials said the loans would be used to finance foreign contracts, of which Enka had over \$1.5 billion worth in the Middle East.

Arab bank assets reach \$1.26b

MANAMA, (OPECNA) — The United Gulf Bank, the world's fourth largest Arab Bank, increased its assets by 25 per cent of \$1.26 billion in the first half of this year, according to Managing Director Mahmoud Al Nouri. Total loans provided by the bank reached \$428 million while deposits stood at \$712 million in June compared to \$460 million in January.

Spain plans to reprivatise Rumasa

MADRID (R) — Spain's socialist government Thursday set up a commission to direct the return to the private sector of the Rumasa holding group, which it took over last February, an official spokesman said. The government expropriated Rumasa, Spain's largest private holding company, saying financial irregularities had brought it near to collapse.

Wellington announces record deficit

WELLINGTON (R) — The New Zealand government Thursday announced a budget with a record deficit after engineering a sharp cut in bank interest rates to bring down the cost of borrowing. The budget was announced shortly after the state-owned Bank of New Zealand slashed all of its interest rates by four percentage points.

Chrysler to buy plant for \$192m

DETROIT, Michigan (R) — Chrysler, the third largest U.S. carmaker, said Thursday it had agreed to buy Volkswagen of America's idle Michigan car plant for \$192 million over 12 years. Chrysler agreed to buy the plant earlier this month but the price was disclosed only Thursday, in a footnote to the company's second quarter balance sheet. Volkswagenwerk, the parent firm of Volkswagen of America, is expected to endorse the terms.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.5202/12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2319/22	Canadian dollars
	2.6443/53	West German marks
	2.9550/60	Dutch guilders
	2.1285/1300	Swiss francs
	52.88/42	Belgian francs
	7.9530/60	French francs
	1566.00/1567.00	Italian lire
	241.50/65	Japanese yen
	7.7380/7430	Swedish crowns
	7.3825/75	Norwegian crowns
	4.5025/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	421.20/421.70	U.S. dollars

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you have a trip to take to secure a desired new aim, this is just the right day and evening to do so. Be open-minded to all kinds of different views. Use charm today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Sudden ideas can be very fine once you get them well organized in your mind and study them further. Socialize today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try a different method for gaining your personal goals and you get better results at this time. Formulate new plans.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can make new acquaintances via the auspices of good friends today, so go and visit them and choose the best of such.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be on the alert for some new method through which you can improve your financial and worldly standing.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Get out of that rut you are in and look into modern and interesting new outlets where you can place your energies more wisely.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are inspired just how to have greater understanding with your loved one, so follow through with this idea and get good results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Some new attitude adopted by you or partners can bring more success in the future. Socialize at home with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Fine day for studying any periodicals or brochures that will help you in your daily work and can bring in more profit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into those activities that relieve tensions and get your sense of humor working. Gain new ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A day when you can easily get your ideas across to your family and improve the conditions at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Know how to best express your finest talents and have greater benefits flow from them. Visit good friends.

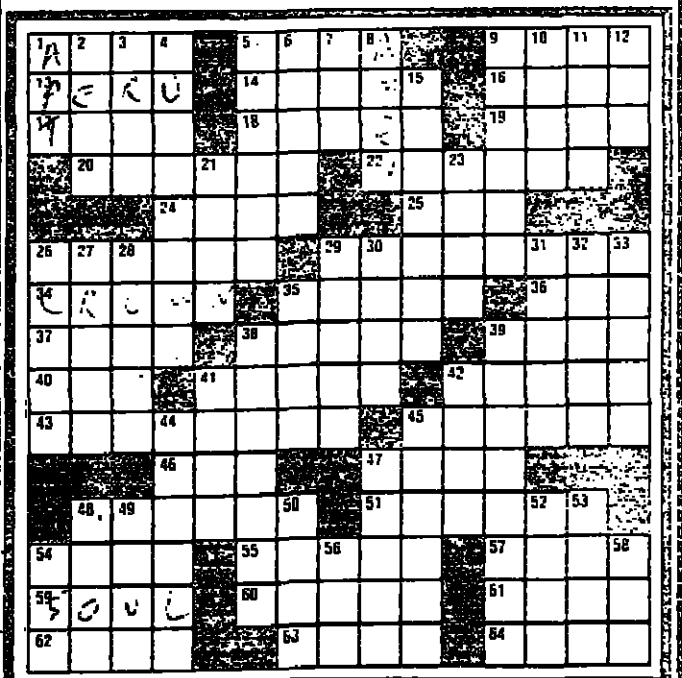
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Hit on some new system through which you can improve your monetary status very soon. Consult an advisor.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be alert to everything that is happening around him, or her, and listen to what others are saying, thereby picking up valuable ideas and knowledge which can be very profitable. Plan for a good college education.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Alfio Miceli

ACROSS	25 Container	48 Native of	15 Clairvoyant
1 Guinness of	26 Antelope	49 Cane	21 Vincent
5 films	27 Snake	51 More	22 Lopez' song
5 Taj Mahal	34 Sparkling	52 plentiful	23 Secular
9 site	35 headress	54 Moby Dick's	26 Balbo
9 Did the	36 Golden	55 pursuer	27 Certain
crawl	37 — Magnon	56 Spirit	runner
13 Home of the	38 Associate	57 Egg, to	28 Marjora
llama	39 Capor	58 Caesar	port
14 Surpass	40 Josip Broz	59 — of the	29 Expenditure
16 US canal	41 Moon	60 party	30 — dieu
17 Do a gum-	42 Spro	61 Author of	(prayer
shoe's job	43 Decreases	62 "Silas	desk)
18 Harness	44 "Messiah"	63 Long river	31 Cake
parts	45 Flock of	64 Abodes:	32 Soviet
19 Monk's room	46 geese	65 Knowledge	cooperative
20 Made dis-	47 "— now,	66 Valley	33 Trap
tressful	48 brown cow?"	67 Tossdale	34 Years, to
22 Hose	49 of poetry	68 Tossdale	Carlo
24 "— but the	50 Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:	69 Tossdale	38 Transmis-
Lonely Heart"		70 Tossdale	sion medium
		71 Tossdale	39 Follow
		72 Tossdale	closely
		73 Tossdale	41 Kick
		74 Tossdale	42 Corrupt
		75 Tossdale	43 "Seven
		76 Tossdale	Against —"
		77 Tossdale	45 Biological
		78 Tossdale	cell
		79 Tossdale	46 Rallish
		80 Tossdale	47 Poker money
		81 Tossdale	48 Log float
		82 Tossdale	49 Dickens
		83 Tossdale	50 girl
		84 Tossdale	51 Heinous
		85 Tossdale	52 Authority
		86 Tossdale	53 — carte
		87 Tossdale	54 "— Rita"
		88 Tossdale	55 Hands



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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



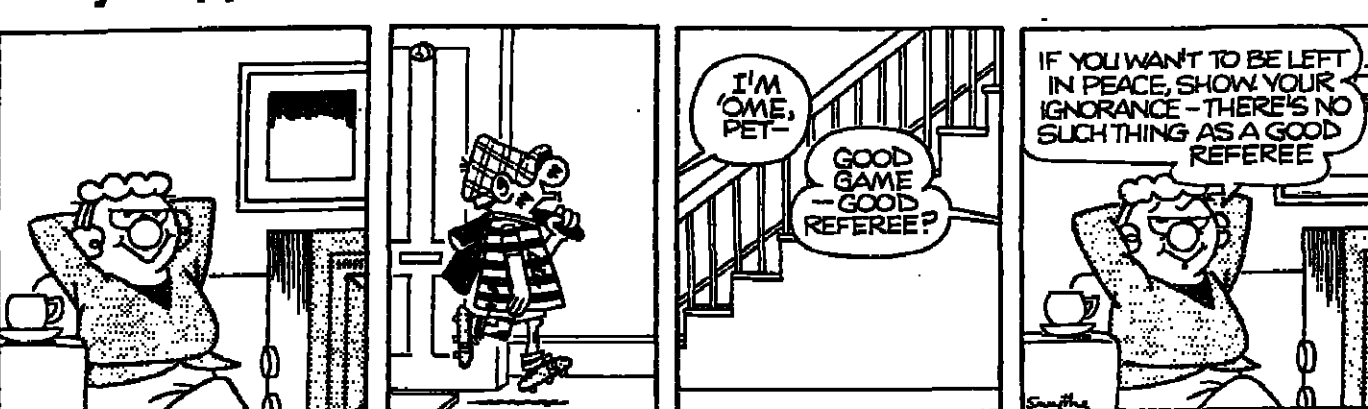
Peanuts



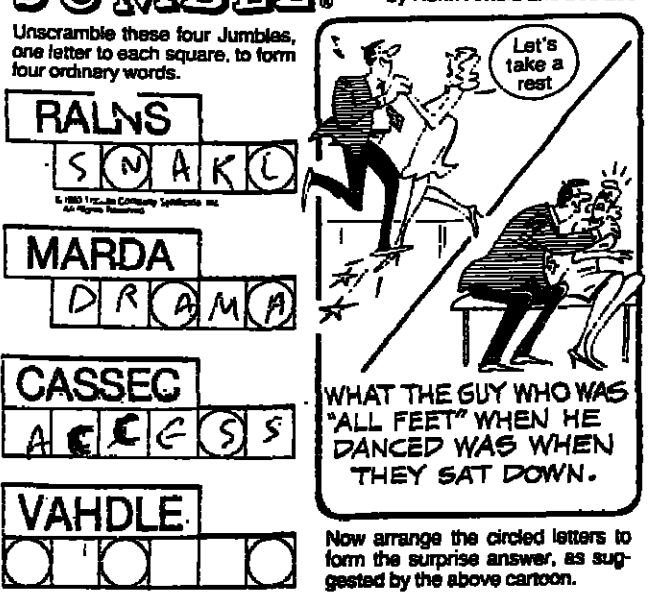
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: A E L H A M P S

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURIO BARGE NAPKIN MATURE

Answer: What some skaters might have to do in order to get better acquainted — BREAK THE ICE

WORLD

U.S. Navy ships off Nicaragua as Congress balks at Reagan

PANAMA CITY (R) — U.S. navy manoeuvres off Nicaragua cast a shadow Friday over a conference of nine Latin American foreign ministers trying to avert a war in Central America.

The three-day meeting of five Central American nations and the Contadora group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, began Thursday night after Honduras and Nicaragua traded harsh words over a U.S. show of military strength in war games involving 10 warships and up to 4,000 combat troops.

And in Washington, the House of Representatives dealt a major rebuff to President Reagan, voting to cut off all undercover aid for Honduras-based Nicaraguan rebels trying to topple the leftist government in Managua.

The 228 to 195 vote ended two

days of bitter debate over Mr. Reagan's moves to foil what he calls a Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan attempt to take over Central America. It reflected mounting alarm over U.S. military involvement in the region and congressmen said they believed the vote could force a change of White House policy.

In the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, President Luis Alberto Monge told reporters the U.S. and the Soviet Union were heading for a Central America showdown.

In Panama, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto told reporters that progress at the

three-day conference would be very difficult if the U.S. went ahead with plans to station warships off Nicaragua.

The U.S. southern military command said eight of the 19 warships were not far from Nicaragua. Father D'Escoto charged the navy manoeuvres "proved the U.S. is doing everything possible to make sure the Contadora initiative fails."

Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barrica, defended the exercises, which included two U.S. carriers with 140 aircraft, as necessary to dissuade Nicaragua from attacking his country.

He quoted press reports that 12 Soviet freighters loaded with arms were heading for Nicaragua. Father D'Escoto said he wished the reports were true.

The row over the war games overshadowed the Contadora group's main goal to persuade Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica to adopt its peace plan.

Father D'Escoto called for the conference to focus on the U.S. naval movements. Some Latin Americans fear the warships' presence could turn into a blockade of Nicaragua, charged by Mr. Reagan with running Soviet-bloc arms to leftists in the region.

"We came here willing to have a dialogue but the (manoeuvres) are a pistol pointed at our head," Father D'Escoto said.

In Islamabad, visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said Peking strongly opposed foreign intervention in the affairs of Central American states.

Panic sweeps through Colombo

COLOMBO (R) — Panic swept through Colombo Friday and thousands of office workers rushed home early after reports that the Sri Lankan capital, already torn by riots this week, had been infiltrated by guerrillas.

Government spokesman Douglas Liyanage confirmed to reporters that 12 men suspected of belonging to a guerrilla movement had been arrested and taken to a police station in the centre of the city.

There was no confirmation of rumours that the 12 had been sniping at troops from buildings.

Ethnic violence erupted in Colombo and other areas after guerrillas seeking a separate state for minority Tamils killed 13 soldiers in an ambush last Saturday.

The majority Sinhalese retaliated by attacking shops, factories and homes of Tamils and killing more than 150 people, according to unofficial estimates.

The official death toll for the whole of the island is now close to 100.

Mr. Liyanage said police had reported 73 deaths in the Colombo area since Saturday. They included 52 Tamils massacred in two riots at a prison and nine people killed Thursday at a railway station after they were found to be carrying bombs and pistols.

He said the evacuation of Tamil refugees from Colombo to Jaffna, 400 kilometres to the north, started Friday.

One ship with 350 people has sailed while another will leave during the weekend with 400 more. About 8,000 of the 35,000 refugees in Colombo have said they want to go to Jaffna.

Mr. Liyanage said refugees in Colombo were housed in nine camps while there were thousands of others in relief centres at the

highland city of Kandy, the southern town of Galle, and in the gem producing areas of Ratnapura.

He denied one rumour that Colombo's water supply had been poisoned.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao met President Junius Jayewardene. Mr. Rao was sent here as concern grew in India about the safety of its nationals in Sri Lanka.

Officials said Mr. Rao later flew by helicopter to Kandy where people of Indian origin are reported to be affected by the troubles.

Mr. Jayewardene announced Thursday night that legislation would be passed in parliament next Thursday outlawing political parties campaigning for a separate state and their members would be stripped of civic rights.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palermo investigator killed by car bomb

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Palermo's chief criminal investigator and two carabinieri policemen escorting him were killed by a car bomb Friday police said. According to first reports, the chief investigator, Rocco Chinnici, was about to get into his bullet-proofed car in front of his home in the Sicilian capital when another car parked nearby exploded. The blast also killed the porter of Mr. Chinnici's apartment block and wounded three other carabinieri.

It is not easy to be street cleaners

LONDON (R) — Situations vacant: Half a dozen street cleaners required for a Middle Eastern city, salary about £16,000 (\$24,000) plus overtime. But there are some particular requirements for the six who will supervise a workforce in the Muslim holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Successful candidates need to be Muslims, have British passports, a minimum of seven years cleaning experience and preferably a British military background. A spokesman for the recruiting firm said: "The military background request is a little unusual. But they will be in charge of 100 to 200 cleaners from Third World countries and our clients thought this would be useful."

Taiwan rejects peace overture by Deng

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan rejected a peace offer from Peking and described the latest overture from Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as a communist trick.

A foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement that the Nationalist-ruled island would never seek any compromise with Peking.

The spokesman said by that making the offer, in an interview

with U.S. Prof. Winston Yang, Mr. Deng was trying to project an image of Peking as peace-loving in order to fool the world.

He said Mr. Deng's proposal, which included allowing Taiwan to maintain its armed forces, did not go beyond what Peking had offered in recent years.

Mr. Yang earlier told Reuters in New York that Mr. Deng had outlined new concessions Peking

would make to achieve reunification with Taiwan during an interview in Peking on June 26.

He said the most important concession was that Taiwan could continue to acquire weapons from foreign countries.

The island could also retain "appropriate" status in international organisations and relations with foreign countries, he added.

The foreign ministry spokesman said Taiwan would only agree to peaceful reunification if Peking renounced communism.

He said the communists had not abandoned their efforts to take Taiwan by force.

"We hope the free world will remember what Peking had promised to the Tibetans before and the eventual communisation of Tibet," he said.

Poll result shows gains for Britain's Alliance

LONDON (R) — Britain's centrist political alliance Friday slashed a large majority for the ruling Conservatives in the first by-election since Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's landslide general election victory last month.

Conservative candidate David MacLean, a 30-year-old Scotsman, scraped home by just 552 votes in Thursday's by-election in the northern English seat of Penrith.

The result, announced early Friday, was a boost for the Alliance, formed in 1981 between the Liberal and Social Democratic (SDP) parties and now striving to build a base for a strong bid at the next general election, due by 1988.

"The conservative vote is crumbling," Alan Beith, a Liberal Party leader, said.

Political commentators cautioned against reading national trends into the result, coming so soon after the general election and reflecting voter apathy and local factors.

Liberal Michael Young, fighting the by-election for the Alliance, slashed a 15,000-vote majority the Conservatives gained in last month's election, polling

16,978 votes against 17,530 for the Conservatives.

Lindsay Williams, candidate of the main opposition Labour Party, came a poor third with only 2,834 votes.

Former Home Secretary (Interior Minister) William Whitelaw, a local farmer-landlord with a big personal following, vacated the seat when he was made a viscount with a seat in the House of Lords, the upper house of parliament.

"We have established our position as the real challenger to the government," Mr. Beith said.

'No American missile'

LONDON (R) — Britain has opted to spend £300 million (\$450 million) on a home-built missile to attack radar sites rather than purchase an American weapon, Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine announced Thursday.

Mr. Heseltine told Parliament he will equip the air force with the ALARM (air-launched anti-radiation) air-to-ground missile developed by British Aerospace Corporation. Industry experts said the decision will sustain at least 3,000 jobs in British companies.

Reagan selects tough judge to head commission 'against the mob'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, vowing to "break the power of the mob," has created a special commission headed by one of America's toughest judges to recommend ways of crippling organised crime.

The chairman of the 20-member president's commission on organised crime, Judge Irving Kaufman of New York, said his task was to root out "a pervasive cancer spreading throughout all levels of society."

Mr. Reagan said in a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden that the commission would hold public hearings over a three-year period on organised crime and recommend legislation to smash criminal syndicates.

"The time has come for all of us to assist in the fight to break the power of the mob in America," he said.

Judge Kaufman, who passed long sentences on mobsters arrested at a secret "crime convention" in New York state 23 years ago, made clear that a prime aim of the commission would be to investigate the smuggling and distribution of illicit drugs.

Attorney General William French Smith told reporters at a briefing that one target would be "Japanese organised crime spreading its tentacles into Hawaii and the West Coast."

William Webster, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), said Japan's Yakuza syn-

dicate, with hundreds of thousands of members, was trying to get control of U.S. businesses through criminal and corrupt activities.

Judge Kaufman, who is chief judge of the U.S. court of appeals for the second circuit including New York State, said the drug trade had been a "pivotal problem" when he acted 23 years ago, but now had grown to a \$79 billion a year business.

During the past few months special anti-drug task forces, especially in southern Florida, and other anti-drug task forces, especially in southern Florida, and other anti-crime groups have been set up.

Defence says there is no evidence that Pancoast killed Vicki Morgan

LOS ANGELES (R) — Police said Thursday they had found no fingerprints on the baseball bat used to bludgeon to death Vicki Morgan, self-proclaimed mistress of one of President Reagan's millionaire friends.

Detective William Welch told a court that three different fingerprint tests were carried out on the murder weapon alleged to have been used by 33-year-old Marvin Pancoast but they all proved negative.

Mr. Pancoast's lawyer Arthur Barans replied: "There is no evidence my client was ever in Morgan's house. I don't think anyone specifically knows what happened."

Mr. Pancoast, an unemployed clerk, was said by police to have walked into a police station and confessed to battering the dark-haired ex-actress to death in her Hollywood apartment.

Ms. Morgan made headlines last year when she sued millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale, a close friend of Mr. Reagan and

one of his so-called kitchen cabinet advisers, and his wife Betty for \$10 million. She claimed he had promised to support her for life after a 12-year affair.

Mr. Bloomingdale died soon after the suit was filed and Ms. Morgan's claims were later thrown out of court. Police said she was almost destitute when she was killed on July 8.

Four days after she died, Los Angeles lawyer Robert Steinberg said he was given three films by a "mystery blonde" showing Mr. Bloomingdale, Ms. Morgan, two senior Reagan administration officials and others at kinky sex parties.

He said the woman wanted them to be used to bargain for Mr. Pancoast, but the following day they were stolen from his office.

A court official said Mr. Steinberg was among defence witnesses listed for the hearing, being held to decide whether Pancoast should stand trial.

Mr. Pancoast, who has pleaded "not guilty and not guilty by reason

of insanity to the killing, repeatedly wrung his hands when he appeared in court Thursday.

He was alleged by police to have lived in Ms. Morgan's home for three weeks before she was murdered. Mr. Pancoast told reporters in jail interviews: "I just wanted her to be quiet and go to sleep. I was tired."

A baseball bat, with about a dozen hairs clotted to its surface, was shown in court and after detective Welch said the fingerprint tests had proved negative, lawyer Barans asked in cross-examination:

"You don't have any evidence ... that Marvin Pancoast ever had his hand on the baseball bat?"

"No, I do not," Mr. Welch replied.

Mr. Welch also said Ms. Morgan's bedroom, in which she was murdered, was in total disarray.

"Like it was ransacked?" Mr. Barans asked.

"You could say that," Mr. Welch replied.

Reagan says he is not prejudiced against blacks

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, in a new attempt to overcome hostility from blacks, has defended himself against accusations of racism.

Speaking to the National Council of Negro Women at a White House reception, he said he had acquired a totally false image and was in fact fully opposed to prejudice and bigotry.

Mr. Reagan has long complained about allegations that he is a "rich man's president" not interested in minorities or the poor. He is now trying to win black votes for a re-election campaign he will probably fight next year.

He said his administration had a good record in defending civil rights and working to improve conditions for blacks.

But he felt self-conscious defending himself, he added, because the popular image of him might make some of the audience doubt his sincerity.

Earlier Thursday Reagan agreed to withdraw his nomination of a southern Republican to an official post after Congressmen decided that some of the nominee's activities were anti-black.

Thomas Ellis, nominated as a member of the government's board for international broadcasting, testified to the senate foreign relations committee that he once served with a group which financed research to try to prove blacks genetically inferior to whites.

In the confirmation hearings Mr. Ellis also said he belonged to an all-white country club, had extensive holdings in South Africa.

Mr. Reagan agreed to withdraw the nomination at the request of both the committee and Mr. Ellis, who complained, however, that the criticism of him was an attempt by Democrats to drive a wedge between Mr. Reagan and the black community.

Sino-Indian talks to be in Autumn

NEW DELHI (R) — The fourth round of talks between India and China on their border dispute is expected to be held in Delhi in the autumn, Minister of State for External Affairs A.A. Rahim told Parliament Friday. The exact date had not yet been given by the Chinese, he said. Rahim said in the Rajya Sabha (upper house) that differences between India and China on their boundary dispute still remained.

'Sleep with your heads to East'

NEW DELHI (R) — Two Indian scientists have advised people to sleep with their heads pointing towards the East because this will make them feel calm and alert. The scientists said that sleeping with the head pointing northwards could cause confusion, depression, restlessness and sloth. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported Friday. The scientists, who were studying the effect of the earth's magnetic field on man's moods, reached their conclusions after tests on healthy people and animals under controlled conditions in a medical institute in Madras, South India. PTI added.

Wedding lover courts the law

LONDON (R) — Frederick Monkhouse is so fond of weddings that he married seven different women in 10 years. The trouble was that he only bothered to get divorced twice. Inner London Crown Court was told, Monkhouse, 34, was given a 12-month suspended sentence for bigamy. "He is exceptionally partial to weddings," prosecuting counsel told the court.

Latest search for Titanic abandoned

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (R) — Texas oil millionaire Jack Grimm has called off his latest search for the sunken luxury liner Titanic. His research vessel Robert D. Conrad steamed back to Halifax last week after equipment failures and the stormy north Atlantic defeated his third and latest effort. Seas cresting at 11 metres and 50-knot winds made it impossible to overcome persistent problems with an underwater sled carrying camera gear, search leader Mr. Harris said in a radio-telephone interview from the ship. Grimm, who claims to be the only person to know exactly where the pride of the White Star line went down, was searching about 360 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland. He based his third attempt on murky pictures taken last year purporting to show a propeller.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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TRUMPS WERE ONLY ONE PROBLEM

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 6
♥ Q 10
♦ Q 9 6 5
♣ Q 10 5 3 2

WEST EAST
♠ 10 9 7 ♥ K 3 5 4 3 2
♦ J 9 7 6 5 ♣ K 2
♠ J 8 4 ♥ 10 7 3
♣ A ♣ K

SOUTH
♠ Q
♥ A 8 4
♦ A K 2
♣ J 9 8 7 6 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♥ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
4 ♥ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

No bridge tournament is without its share of amusing hands. Consider this example from the recent Fall North American Championships in Minneapolis.

We were not given an explanation of the bidding, in particular of North's cue-bid of three hearts. Suffice it to say that neither South nor North was reticent at any stage of the auction. The

result was a slam that was distinctly against the odds. And the only thing we can say about West's vulnerable weak jump overall is don't even look at it. But it did play a vital part in the outcome of the hand.

West led a spade, and as soon as dummy hit the table, declarer remarked: "Well, I'm off the two top clubs, but obviously they're 1-1." Declarer could be sure of that, for had either defender started with both trump honors, he would have doubled six clubs!

Declarer won the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. To make the hand, he had to eliminate diamonds as an exit suit for the defenders and hope for an end play. So he cashed his three top diamonds and exited with a trump, and was delighted to find that it was West who had to win the trick while East's king came tumbling down.

Since a spade would give declarer his contract via a ruff-and-suff, West, exited with a heart. Confident that he knew the heart position because of West's overall, declarer played the queen from the table. Unfortunately that fetched the king from East—down one!

Indonesian government admits its security agents behind mystery killings

JAKARTA (R) — Government security agents have killed hundreds of suspected or known criminals in Indonesia, former army strongman Lt.-Gen. Ali Murtopo was quoted as saying.

Lt.-Gen. Murtopo's remarks, quoted widely by local newspapers, were the first official admission that government agents were behind the summary executions, estimated by newspapers to number more than 500.

"The shooting of the criminals could be fully accounted for and was done according to the stipulations of the defence and security ministry," said Lt.-Gen. Murtopo, former information minister and now deputy-chairman of the supreme advisory council.

He said conventional ways of fighting crime could not be used in Indonesia and "the big question was, should we wipe out crime or

not? The answer was yes, for the sake of the people."

After that decision was taken, Lt.-Gen. Murtopo added, "the people at large were relieved and happy."

Lt.-Gen. Murtopo, once a powerful army general close to President Suharto often acting as his trouble-shooter, was information minister until dropped from the cabinet in March.

Later he was appointed deputy chairman of the supreme advisory council which advises the president on important matters. Lt.-Gen. Murtopo said drastic measures had to be taken against criminals to prevent the situation from deteriorating as it had in Italy and Japan.

He intimated that if left unchecked criminals in Indonesia could develop into a terrorist organisation like Italy's Red Brigades, or the Red Army group in Japan.

Before Lt.-Gen. Murtopo's statement high-ranking officials had said they were glad the crime rate in many parts of the country had fallen but had stopped short of admitting the killings were done by government agents.

A spokesman for the Central Java military command has denied allegations that the military or police were involved in the murders. Lt.-Col. Antonio Margi told the official Antara news agency the dead people had been killed in gang warfare.

Lt.-Gen. Murtopo told local reporters the government was paying attention to criticism of the killings from within and the country and abroad.

There has been no official body count but a Jakarta newspaper said this week at least 553 people had been murdered by unidentified gunmen since early this year.

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And their own way of choosing a king...



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Sparlin Ghaypen
Susan Sarandon**

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